

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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Mac getting  
smaller, cheaper**

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Miami Heat forward Udonis Haslem, left, and Phoenix Suns forward Amaré Stoudemire

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2005

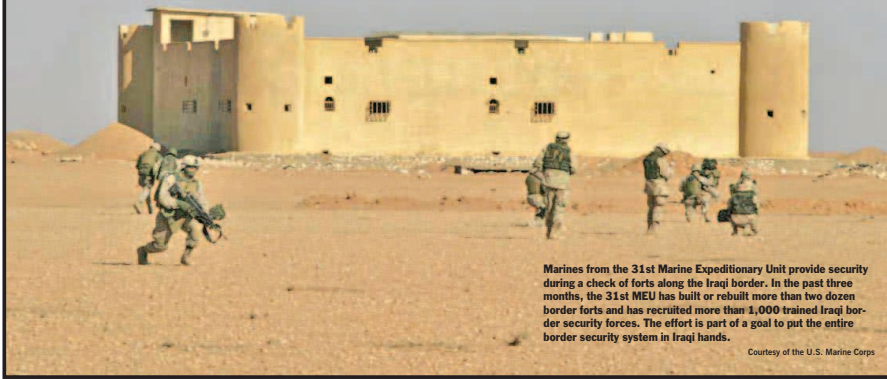
# Inspectors end search for WMD, return to States

Proof of Saddam's arsenal never found; final report expected soon

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## Bordering on success at the edge of Iraq

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Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit provide security during a check of forts along the Iraqi border. In the past three months, the 31st MEU has built or rebuilt more than two dozen border forts and has recruited more than 1,000 trained Iraqi border security forces. The effort is part of a goal to put the entire border security system in Iraqi hands.

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STARS AND STRIPES  
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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Missing intern:** Gary Condit denied in a sworn deposition that he had a romantic affair with slain intern Chandra Levy, insisting "we were friends," but offering few details of their relationship. The former California congressman was questioned in September as part of an \$11 million lawsuit he filed in 2002 against Democratic Dunne, a special correspondent to Vanity Fair. Condit claims that Dunne's statements led millions of people to believe Condit was criminally involved in Levy's death.

Details of the deposition were reported Tuesday on NBC's "Today Show." When asked to describe his relationship with Levy, Condit said, "We were friends."

Levy, a 24-year-old U.S. Bureau of Prisons employee, disappeared in 2001; her remains were discovered in a Washington, D.C., park in May 2002.

**Illegal immigrants' deaths:** The attorney for the truck driver accused in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants contends the defendant's fair-trial rights are more important than guarding the secrecy of the process used by prosecutors to decide to ask for a death sentence.

Craig Washington, the attorney for Tyronne Williams, made the argument Tuesday in a 49-page answer to prosecutors who want an appeals court to stop a federal judge from giving a jury information that could make a death penalty unlikely.

Washington maintains that the government wants Williams — a Jamaican immigrant from Schenectady, N.Y. — sentenced to death because he is black.

Williams, 33, is one of 14 people accused of being part of a human-smuggling ring indicted last year in the deaths of the illegal immigrants during a smuggling attempt.

**South Carolina train derailment:** The government told railroads on Tuesday they should require their crews to report and document changes to manual switches like the

one suspected of causing the derailment of a train carrying chlorine gas.

A Norfolk Southern train slammed into another train parked on a side track in Graniteville, S.C., on Thursday, rupturing a tank and releasing a cloud of gas. The deadliest train accident involving hazardous material in nearly three decades, it killed nine people, injured 234 others and forced the evacuation of 5,400 local residents.

Though they haven't finished their probe, National Transportation Safety Board investigators are focusing on whether the crew of the parked train failed to flip a switch to keep other trains on the main track hours before the wreck.

**Louisiana serial murders:** Prosecutors have decided against taking twice-convicted killer Derrick Todd Lee to trial for the murder of a Lafayette woman, Trineisha Dene Colomb, 23.

Authorities say DNA evidence links Lee to the serial killings of Colomb and six other women from 1998 to 2003. In October, a jury in Baton Rouge convicted Lee of first-degree murder in the slaying of Charlotte Murray Pace and ordered the death penalty. He earlier was convicted of second-degree murder for the slaying of Gerilyn DeSoto in West Baton Rouge Parish and was sentenced to life in prison.

Prosecutors said that, in the event that Lee's death penalty conviction for the Pace murder is overturned, they will reconsider trying him.

### War against terrorism

**Australian terror suspect's release:** The opposition Labor Party asked the government on Wednesday to explain if the release of an Australian terror suspect held for three years at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was linked to his claims he was tortured while under U.S. supervision in Egypt.

The suspect, who the United States believes had foreknowledge of the Sept. 11 al-Qaida attacks, won't be allowed to leave Australia after being repatriated. The government announced Tuesday that Sydney resident Mamdouh Habib, who was born in Egypt, will be released without charge from Guantanamo Bay.

Last week, one of Habib's court affidavits was made public in which he said that after he was arrested in Pakistan he was trans-

ferred to Egypt, where he was tortured with beatings and electric shocks and was nearly drowned.

### World

**Mubarak runs for fifth term:** Egypt's ruling party has announced it will nominate its current leader, President Hosni Mubarak, 76, for a fifth presidential term.

While Mubarak's nomination was never in doubt, the party will make it official in parliament in May, the undersecretary of the National Democratic Party was quoted as saying Wednesday by local media.

The presidential referendum will be held in the second half of September.

Egyptians vote for a sole presidential candidate in a public "yes" or "no" referendum. That candidate is chosen by parliament, which is dominated by the ruling party.

**Afghan drug-smuggler amnesty:** President Hamid Karzai said an amnesty for former drug smugglers was "not a bad idea" if it could help eliminate Afghanistan's booming narcotics industry, but he suggested Wednesday it was far from becoming government policy.

Under pressure from the United States and Europe, Karzai has called for a "baly war" against Afghanistan's drug business, the world's largest, and made it a priority for the five-year term he won in landmark September elections.

Afghan poppy cultivation jumped an estimated two-thirds last year and supplied 87 percent of the world's opium, the raw material for most of the heroin sold to young addicts in areas such as Western Europe and Russia.

**Croatian war crimes suspect:** Croatia's fugitive war crimes suspect, Gen. Ante Gotovina, is ready to surrender "immediately" if he is granted a trial in Croatia instead of before the U.N. court that charged him in mid-2001 with his arrest.

Gotovina "would immediately surrender to Croatian authorities for trial if his case were transferred to Croatia," his Chicago-based attorney, Larry S. Marshall, said.

The letter was sent to the heads of the European Union, which decided to start membership talks with Croatia on March 17, but only if the country arrests and extradites Gotovina, one of the most wanted suspects of the U.N. court in The Hague, Netherlands.

Gotovina's offer was immediately rejected by the U.N. court.

**Naples gang warfare:** Police broke up a meeting of suspected mobsters from a Naples gang involved in a vicious internal war, arresting six men, authorities said Wednesday.

Police in Naples said they blocked the men as they tried to escape from a room in a neighborhood in northern Naples, where they had been meeting late Tuesday.

The men are thought to be tied to the Di Lauro clan, a part of Naples' Camorra crime syndicate that has been involved in a bloody battle with a break off group in recent months, resulting in several brutal killings. More than 130 people were killed in the Naples region last year, most of them in mob violence.

**Pakistan assassination suspect:** An air force staffer who allegedly played a key role in a plot to assassinate Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf has escaped from jail and efforts are under way to arrest him, a spokesman said Wednesday.

Musharraf Ahmed, a low-ranking Pakistani air force staff member, was captured months after al-Qaida-linked Islamic militants tried to blow up Musharraf's motorcade on Dec. 4, 2004, in Rawalpindi, a city near the capital, Islamabad.

On Wednesday, air force spokesman Air Commodore Sarfaraz Ahmad said the jail break occurred last week, but declined to give further details about it.

Photos and stories from wire reports



Fired Georgia law enforcers: Clayton County, Ga., Sheriff Victor Hill — whose firing of 27 of his 345 employees, most of them deputies and officers, on his first day in office was overturned by a judge — agreed Tuesday to reinstate their pay and benefits. But he insisted they would not necessarily get their jobs back. Hill defended his actions as legal, but refused to say exactly why the employees were fired. The firings angered members of the department and raised suspicions that they were racially motivated. Hill is black. The fired employees included four of the highest-ranking officers, all of them white.

# Fruitless WMD search comes to an end

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq has quietly concluded without any evidence of the banned weapons that President Bush cited as justification for going to war, the White House said Wednesday.

The Iraq Survey Group, made up of some 1,200 military and intelligence specialists and support staff, spent nearly two years searching military installations, factories and laboratories whose equipment and products might be converted quickly to making weapons.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said there was no longer an active search for weapons. "There may be a couple, a few people, that are focused on that"

## Inspectors with Iraq Survey Group return home after nearly 2 years chasing weapons

but that it has largely concluded, he said.

"If they have any reports of [weapons of mass destruction], obviously they'll continue to follow up on those reports," McClellan said. "A lot of their mission is focused elsewhere now."

Chief U.S. weapons hunter Charles Duelfer is to deliver his final report on the search next month.

"It's not going to fundamentally alter the findings of his earlier report," McClellan said, referring to preliminary findings from last September. Duelfer reported

then that Saddam Hussein not only had no weapons of mass destruction and had not made any since 1991, but that he had no capability of making any either. Bush unapologetically defended his decision to invade Iraq.

Duelfer is expected to report on the removal of enriched uranium, a key ingredient in nuclear weapons production, and that the United States was offering jobs to Iraqis engaged in weapons programs, and other administration official said on condition of anonymity.

Bush has appointed a panel to investigate why the intelligence about Iraq's weapons was wrong.

The Washington Post reported that Duelfer is home, and analysts are back at Langley, Va.

In interviews, officials who served with the Iraq Survey Group said the violence in Iraq, coupled with a lack of new information, led them to fold up the effort shortly before Christmas.

The CIA declined to authorize any official involved in the weapons search to speak on the record for the Post's story. The intelligence official offered an authoritative account of the status of the hunt on the condition of anonymity. The agency did confirm that Duelfer is wrapping up his work and will not be replaced in Baghdad.

## Insurgents attacks up in Mosul

### U.S. detains suspects in slaying of governor

BY JASON KEYSER  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents launched a string of attacks in the northern city of Mosul as part of their escalating campaign of violence before the Jan. 30 elections, killing two Iraqi National Guardsmen and wounding two others in a car bombing Wednesday, a day after another ambush killed three Iraqis, the U.S. military said.

A U.S. servicemember assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action in the volatile western Anbar province, the military said Wednesday. The unit is based at Camp Fallujah, west of Baghdad.

In Baghdad, U.S. forces detained six suspects in the slaying of the provincial governor of the area around the Iraqi capital, the military said Wednesday. Troops detained the suspects in an early-morning raid on a house in Baghdad's northern Huriyah neighborhood Tuesday.

Gunmen opened fire on Ali al-Haidari's three-vehicle convoy Jan. 4 in the neighborhood, killing the governor and six bodyguards.

Two of those detained were directly in-



U.S. Army armored vehicles and troops patrol in Mosul on Wednesday. Insurgents ambushed a convoy of American and Iraqi forces Tuesday, detonating a roadside bomb and firing from a mosque in an attack that killed three Iraqi National Guardsmen, the U.S. military said Wednesday.

volved in the slaying, said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Hammond, assistant commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, which controls Baghdad.

Iraq's insurgents repeatedly have targeted government officials around the country, saying they are allies of the U.S.-led coalition.

On Tuesday, insurgents in Mosul hit a convoy of American and Iraqi forces by detonating a roadside bomb and firing from a mosque, killing three National Guardsmen.

The troops were bringing heaters and other supplies to a school when they were attacked, a military statement said. The convoy was hit first with a roadside bomb and then sprayed with gunfire from a nearby mosque. No Americans were reported hurt.

In a separate clash, insurgents fired on a U.S. patrol in southern Mosul, sparking a bat-

tle that killed one attacker and injured another.

In the city of Bagdubah, northeast of Baghdad, gunmen fatally shot Jawad Ibrahim, an assistant to the mayor, as he was fixing his car in an industrial neighborhood, police said.

A top U.S. lawmaker visiting the Afghan capital Wednesday told reporters he hoped Iraq's election would mirror the recent vote in Afghanistan in helping to stop militants and smooth the road to democracy.

"Our hope is that we will see something very similar... [which will] squelch, or overcome and overpower insurgencies, challenges to democracy, in a way that will far surpass people's anticipations," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

The military had no further details about the circumstances of the American's soldier's death Tuesday.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,356 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,068 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,218 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 959 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 10,372 U.S. servicemembers have been wounded in hostile action, according to a Defense Department tally released Tuesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A U.S. soldier was killed in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Army Staff Sgt. William F. Manuel, 34, Kinder, La., and Army Sgt. Robert W. Sweeney III, 22, Pineville, La., killed Monday when an explosive hit their vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq, assigned to the Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Brigade, 256th Infantry Brigade, Lake Charles, La.

## NATO organizing arms shipment for Iraq military

BY PAUL AMES  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO is organizing the shipment to Iraq of thousands of AK-47 assault rifles, dozens of Soviet-designed tanks and other weapons as part of the alliance's program to help train and equip the Iraqi military, officials said Wednesday.

Romania has offered 6,000 AK-47s, along with 500 machine guns, 300 sniper rifles and 100 rocket-propelled grenade launch-

ers; Estonia, 2,400 AK-47s, and Denmark, 104 pistols, alliance officials said.

NATO is also arranging transport of 77 T-72 tanks from Hungary to Iraq, said the officials, speaking on the alliance's customary condition of anonymity.

All arms and military hardware is being given as a donation.

The alliance agreed last year to help coordinate the supply of weapons to Iraq's fledgling armed forces.

Several former Warsaw Pact nations which joined NATO last year — like Romania and Estonia — have surpluses of Soviet-era equipment which military experts say is ideal for Iraqi military members, many of whom are familiar with such weapons from the days of Saddam Hussein.

Officials said about 100 NATO personnel currently were in Iraq, preparing an expansion of the alliance's training mission there which was launched on a small scale in August.

Alliance foreign ministers last month approved plans to expand the mission to about 300 early this year, but officials said many of those due to deploy still were undergoing preparation for the mission.

In Afghanistan, NATO is expected to announce next month that it is ready to expand its peacekeeping mission into the west of the country. The operation with about 8,000 troops currently is limited to Kabul, the capital, and a northern sector.

# Borders closing in on foreign fighters

## U.S. Marines, local forces finding success limiting routes into Iraq

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

AL ASAD, Iraq — U.S. military officials in Anbar province are reporting progress in one of their most difficult missions: securing Iraq's porous borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia and turning over complete responsibility for the job to Iraqi forces.

Over the last three months, Marines under the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit have built — or rebuilt — more than two dozen border forts and recruited more than 1,000 specially trained Iraqi border security forces.

It is possible, Marine Corps officials say, to have the entire border security system in Iraq handed by this year. If so, it would be a significant milestone in the U.S. military's struggle to train and equip Iraqi security forces as a means to ending the U.S. presence in Iraq.

The effort's centerpiece is a specialized Iraqi unit dubbed the Desert Wolves, which U.S. officials say will be the heart of a revitalized and reconstituted Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement.

"Bringing people into sections of the border where they're not from is one of the smartest things we've done," said Maj. Bart Logue, a Marine Corps foreign area officer attached to the Okinawa-based 31st MEU.

"It's very important that they're not tied to the sheikhs of that area, and they don't have to follow the cultural rules," he said in a reference to kickbacks, bribes and other forms of petty corruption and influence that U.S. officials say were rampant in the former regime and its security forces.

Several times a week, Logue, members of the Navy's Seabees and the Army Corps of Engineers lead into 31st MEU helicopters and check on the forts. They always are accompanied by a heavily armed security element.

On Tuesday, Marines from Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines — armed with everything from light machine guns to rocket launchers — piled into two helicop-

ters at Al Asad and headed out for an inspection of forts along the Iraq-Saudi border.

About halfway to their destination, though, fierce sandstorms forced them to turn back. The conditions made a landing too dangerous to attempt, so the inspection was postponed. On days when they do reach the forts, the Marines clear and secure the areas, sometimes running into booby traps or discovering the forts — which resemble stone castles with turrets — vandalized or damaged.

The \$32 million project is being undertaken through local contractors and labor, said Logue, a 33-year-old from Monterey, Calif., and a military-trained Arabic linguist. The forts are meant to add a physical presence to Iraq's borders, which long have been sand berms in open stretches of desert.

Small teams from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security also are working with Iraqi border forces, training them in customs, immigration and trade. Last month, Logue said, leaders of the Desert Wolves met with Syrian border officials for the first time in years to work on coordinating cross-border issues.

"That happened within the first 30 days of the program. I'm truly impressed," Logue said. "These are the guys who are going to be making a difference for their country."

The Syrian border has been the most difficult to secure, with U.S. officials saying hundreds of foreign fighters have been allowed to enter Iraq through that border. However, senior U.S. diplomats have said the problem is being curbed to some extent.

"We have seen a lot of improvement regarding foreign fighters who were using Syria to enter Iraq, and this is a good thing," Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told reporters last week in Damascus after meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

"But I also made the point that former regime elements of the Iraqi regime sometimes cross back and forth on the border, and



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

**Above: A Marine from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit provides security during a check of one of the new border forts along the Iraqi frontier. Below: An Iraqi border guard smiles as he greets U.S. Marines from the 31st MEU who were inspecting border forts.**

that it's very important to have that stopped," he said, according to a State Department transcript of his comments.

According to the Pentagon, the U.S. government is holding some 325 foreign fighters in Iraq. Nearly half of those were captured in the past two months, officials said, many during the November assault on Fallujah.

And though the aim of the border program is to stop the illegal traffic, recruiting and training a successful border force are crucial pieces of the larger security picture, military officials said.

"It's important the security forces know this is a combined effort. It's critical they know that what things are happening, we're there to support them," said Logue, who also serves as the 31st MEU's Iraqi Security Forces coordinator.

"This is not because the 31st MEU happened to find a good bunch of Iraqis. The key is they are training alongside us. No one asks these guys to do anything the Marines are not willing to do," Logue said.

"We've found something here that's going to take us home."

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## SEAL defends Abu Ghraib abuse suspect

SAN DIEGO — Brushing away tears, an enlisted Navy SEAL who served in Iraq with a lieutenant accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners defended the officer as a "hero" and a man of compassion.

"Sir, I know what kind of man he is, and it breaks my heart that something might be taken out of context by people who weren't there," the SEAL, a hospital corpsman, testified Tuesday at a military court hearing at Naval Base San Diego.

"He's a good man," he said, wiping away tears. "He's a hero."

The testimony was part of an Article 32 hearing, the military equivalent of a civilian grand jury, for the lieutenant, who is accused of assault, maltreatment and conduct unbecoming an officer for his handling of detainees.

## Court-martial for Iraq war souvenirs case

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Florida — A court-martial was ordered Tuesday for an Air Force officer charged with illegally shipping AK-47 assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and other souvenirs from Iraq to this Florida Panhandle base.

Maj. Gregory McMillon is scheduled for trial April 5. If convicted on all charges, he could receive a penalty ranging from no punishment to a discharge and imprisonment.

He faces charges of disregarding orders against bringing home war booty, failing to report and turn over captured or abandoned property, making false statements and conduct unbecoming an officer.

From The Associated Press

# Bush: No women in combat

## President stands by DOD policy limiting female troops

Stars and Stripes

President Bush made clear his position on women in ground combat Tuesday: No women in combat.

Despite extended tours of duties in Iraq for soldiers and an Army examination of women's roles, the president told editors and reporters of The Washington Times in an Oval Office interview that he has no intention of sending women into ground combat, a mission for which they are banned under Pentagon policy.

"There's no change of policy as far as I'm concerned," Bush told the Times. "No women in combat. Having said that, let me explain, we've got to make sure we define combat properly. We've got women flying choppers and women flying fighters, which I'm pretty certain about."

The question came up in light of the Army's transforming its 10 active-combat divisions and re-exam-

ining women's roles. Instead of the normal three brigades per division, each division will have four or more "units of action." They are being designed to train and deploy as one modular unit, with combat and support units as one.

Therein lies the potential problem, the Times wrote. Pentagon policy not only bans women from direct combat brigades, such as infantry or armor, it also says they cannot join support units that collocate with those units.

Congress requires that any change in women-in-combat rules first be presented to lawmakers.

In 1994, after reports of women excelling during Operation Desert Storm, the Clinton administration lifted bans on women in combat aircraft and ships. But it retained the prohibition against women in ground combat units and collocation, the Times reported.





PHOTOS BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY/Stars and Stripes

Above: Capt. Todd Schmidt, of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, started Operation Dreamseed Inc., as a way to help Afghan schoolchildren. But the idea has quickly turned into a full-fledged nongovernmental organization with beneficiaries from across the United States. Right: Two Afghan girls walk away with new backpacks given to them by American soldiers in Kandahar, Afghanistan, through Operation Dreamseed. The bags were given out after an "I Choose Freedom" speech contest in December. All 2,500 children participating in the contest received a new backpack.



# Planting the seeds of freedom

## Army captain's idea blossoming into vast charity for Afghan children

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY  
Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A minister's sermon, a dinner chat with mom and a series of thank you notes have helped launch a humanitarian effort that stretches from the mud hovels of Afghanistan to the high-rises of America.

It is the effort of a U.S. Army captain who took a seed of an idea to assist Afghan schoolchildren and nurtured it into a full-fledged nongovernmental organization.

In characteristic fashion, Capt. Todd Schmidt modestly attributes the growth of Operation Dreamseed Inc. to "the heartland heroes" back home. They range from a large New York City law firm and a Chicago philanthropist, to a Houston middle school and a Beverly Hills investment consulting firm.

Another benefactor is Abdul Aziz, who emigrated from Afghanistan to the United States in 1980, starting his new life as a dishwasher.

"I couldn't believe it," Aziz said of Schmidt's efforts. Aziz, who is now a civil engineer, spoke by telephone from his home in Corona, Calif. "He's a wonderful person. I hope he succeeds, and I'll help him as much as I can."

That help doesn't involve just the folks back home.

Dozens of soldiers assisted Schmidt with Dreamseed's first large-scale effort last month. The "I Choose Freedom" speech contest in early December drew 2,500 Afghan students and thousands of parents. By day's end, each child received a backpack stuffed with school supplies from donors in the United States.

"We had a soccer field filled with kids," Schmidt said of the event. "That was something."

The idea for Dreamseed began in February, when Schmidt returned to his boyhood home in Greenwood, Ind.

Schmidt and his wife, Joy, were visiting family before his deployment to Afghanistan.

One night, while seated at his parents' dinner table, his mother, Wendy, asked him to look for ways she and her pupils at Maple Grove Elementary School could make a difference for Afghan children.

When he and other members of the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii headed to Afghanistan in the spring, Schmidt began to survey the conditions of local schools in the Kandahar area.

"You can walk into just about any classroom and see that they don't have chalkboards," Schmidt said. "They don't have desks or chairs. Most classrooms have dirt floors, and there are no window panes and no doors."

At about the same time, Schmidt and the other soldiers of his unit, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, began receiving care packages from anonymous people in the United States. The goodies boxes consisted of the normal fare, such as candy and hygiene items. Schmidt had one request of his soldiers:

"When you receive a care package, reply with a short thank-you note. 'He means the best in everything he does,'" said Spc. Christopher Cipponeri, a 21-year-old assigned to the battery.

That simple gesture made a huge impression. "When we sent those thank-you notes," Schmidt said, "everything kind of blossomed out of it."

The notes generated return letters, many asking the troops what else they might need.

"We have everything you need, really, when you think about it," the 32-year-old

captain said, referring to the amenities on base.

Schmidt went thinking of the Afghan children, and their dire situation. His thoughts and observations were passed along in letters. That was all it took to set in motion Dreamseed, a term he borrowed from a minister back home.

One of the care packages his unit received was from Connie Fratainai, a partner in the New York City law firm of Shearman & Sterling, which boasts more than 1,000 lawyers worldwide. Letters evolved into e-mails and then to phone calls. Eventually, Fratainai and another partner, Saralyn Cohen, offered to provide pro bono work to incorporate Dreamseed and to help it apply for tax-exempt status as a nonprofit organization.

Dreamseed was formally incorporated on Nov. 12. By that time, donors large and small had stepped forward. The University of Nebraska, a leading authority on Afghanistan, and Denver University also are interested in furthering Dreamseed's mission.

That mission, Schmidt said, involves three phases.

The first is to provide schoolchildren in southern Afghanistan with basic school supplies.

Next is the renovation of schools, which is not as simple as it may seem. In a land where only 5 million of the nation's 28 million people can read, Schmidt noted that some teachers have their work cut out for them. In some cases, they use rocks to scrawl lesson plans on the walls of their mud-brick classrooms.

"These kids have nothing," said Cipponeri.

eri, a soldier who has played a major role in helping Schmidt. "All these children have smiles on their faces and wear rags for clothes. When you help them, it opens a new part of you in your heart."

Ultimately, Schmidt would like to establish an exchange program between Afghan teachers and institutions in the United States. He said talks with the University of Nebraska and Denver University are in their infancy, but already the latter is interested in sending doctoral candidates to Afghanistan.

"We want to get the new generation to lean toward the Western ideology," said Aziz, who is expected to become a member of Dreamseed's board of directors.

"The U.S. military isn't just there to give [Afghans] freedom from terror," Aziz added, America wants "to educate the young people of Afghanistan. It's very important. It's very important."

What's important to Joy Schmidt is her husband's safe return. On the organization's Web site, she wrote a congratulatory note, but implored him "to stay focused" on his primary responsibility — being a soldier. Schmidt smiled as he recounted those words.

One concern that seems to have dissipated is who will carry on his work in Afghanistan.

Aziz plans to return to assist the Afghan government, and cash donations to Dreamseed should allow Schmidt to hire two full-time employees. In addition, an officer with the 173rd Airborne Brigade from Vicenza, Italy, the unit that will replace the 25th ID in the spring, has pledged to keep the initiative going.

The good will of so many people back home "is humbling," Schmidt said. "There are so many great people across America." "If you have a generation of kids that realize the importance of education, to me, that's an investment in the future," Schmidt added. "We Americans need to foster those seeds of hope."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: [doughertyk@ml.ezr.net](mailto:doughertyk@ml.ezr.net) or [psj.esd.osm](mailto:psj.esd.osm)

# War stories straight from the soldier's mouth

## Filmmaker to share experiences of battle by collecting troops' first-hand accounts

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Aaron Mighty wants to make a film about war, but he doesn't think actors and special effects will tell the story.

"We want to look at soldiers' whole lives: going into war, facing war and coming home," the director said Monday. "So we started last November, on Veterans Day, collecting stories from people in the military and their families. And the stories so far are phenomenal."

Mighty, an independent filmmaker from Florida, said the goal of his documentary "An American Soldier" is to help audiences appreciate the military experience by recording an intimate view of the heroism and tragedy inherent in war.

Mighty and three associates are also responsible for DearAmericanSoldiers.com, founded last year to collect holiday e-mails and online notes of encouragement for troops serving abroad.

Mighty said that campaign — which developed while he and friends researched for the movie — has given him ideas and encouragement, convincing him the movie will touch many viewers' lives.

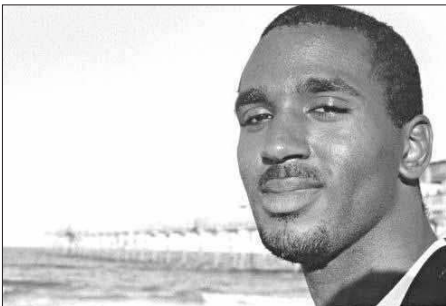
The group has collected about 250 stories, ranging from a Wisconsin paratrooper who served as an advance scout for D-Day to a Gulf War veteran concealing his postbattle health problems from friends and co-workers.

"We have one story of a guy serving in the Korean War whose unit adopted a young boy after his parents were killed in a battle," he said. "Eventually, when the unit moved they had to leave the child behind, and the boy ran after the trucks as they left, crying."

His goal is to collect more than 1,000 stories, select the most compelling, and begin filming this spring.

Mighty, 26, is a graduate student at University of Central Florida with no formal film training. His only previous full-length film, "One Happy Movie," has been shown in limited release and features interviews with different people discussing what brings joy to their lives.

Mighty said he is meeting next month with possible financial backers for the project, which he expects will cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000. But he thinks the emotional stories and the firsthand look at war will draw support, especially in light of the war on terror.



Courtesy to Stars and Stripes

Independent filmmaker Aaron Mighty is making "An American Soldier" to help audiences appreciate the military experience by having troops, veterans and families tell their stories.

"It may be hard to avoid the politics of war today," he said. "But that's not our goal." My cousin Charles is stationed over in Iraq. Growing up, we were close. When he was sent over last summer, it made it really personal for me. People should cele-

brate our American men and women serving every day of the year."

Troops and retired military personnel can submit their stories for consideration at [www.anaamericansoldiermovie.com](http://www.anaamericansoldiermovie.com).

E-mail Leo Shane at: [shane@stripes.com](mailto:shane@stripes.com)

## Black Hawks to get NASCAR-quality windshield coating

BY PAUL NOWELL

The Associated Press

KANNAPOLIS, N.C. — A protective windshield coating that improves visibility for NASCAR drivers is getting a new application on the windshields of Army Black Hawk helicopters flying combat missions over Iraq.

The clear plastic film — used to keep flying debris from ruining the view for race drivers — was pioneered by tiny Pro-Tint Inc., a company with just 14 employees that came up with tear-away windshield film in the late 1990s. The multiplex product is now used by virtually all Nextel Cup teams.

Instead of replacing a scratched and pitted windshield, race teams merely peel off a layer of the protective film to reveal a new, clear layer of film underneath.

Recently, Pro-Tint teamed up with United Protective Technologies, another small firm, to produce a thicker and more complex Mylar protective film for military helicopters.

Starting this month, the companies will start shipping the coating, which is to be installed on hundreds of Black Hawks flying in war zones like Iraq and Afghanistan.

In normal use, Black Hawk windshields last about two years. But the harsh conditions of the Middle East — where helicopters are pelted with grit and sand and other debris — have reduced the average durability to under a year, the military has told Pro-Tint.

"This will double the life of a Black Hawk's windshield," Fricker said of the technology, which resulted from a three-year development effort with United Protective Technologies.



Steve Fricker applies a protective windshield coating for a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter at Pro-Tint Inc. in Kannapolis, N.C., on Friday. Starting this month, the company will start shipping the coating, which is to be installed on hundreds of Black Hawks that are being flown on combat missions overseas in war zones like Iraq and Afghanistan.

## NCO guilty of adultery

The acting first sergeant of a Vilseck, Germany-based unit serving in Iraq pleaded guilty Friday to charges of adultery and violating a lawful general order, according to a case summary prepared by the Task Force Danger staff judge advocate's office.

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Durrant, 38, of Company A, 201st Forward Support Battalion, acknowledged having sex with a private first class under his command in his barracks at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baquba, the summary said. Judge (Col.) Denise Lind, ordered him to serve five months in jail and reduced in rank to E-4.

The incident took place Nov. 16 in a room that Durrant shared with his company commander, who was fighting insurgents in Fallujah at the time.

According to the summary, the soldier testified she felt Durrant — who is married and a 19-year Army veteran — "took advantage" of her and had come on to her several times.

From staff reports

## Safety alert in Kuwait doesn't faze Americans

The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — A U.S. Embassy alert that at least one terrorist was driving around in a black car with the intent to attack Westerners — and a shootout the same day that left that suspect and two policemen dead — barely fazed Americans living in this small oil-rich state.

Many of the some 13,000 American civilians living in this major Washington ally have seen such incidents before and some say it is still safer to live in Kuwait than in big American cities.

"Authorities pretty well have it under control," said Peter Menting, 60, a lawyer from New York City who has been working in Kuwait for 11 years.

On Monday morning, the embassy warned in an urgent message on its Web site that one or more people moving about Kuwait in a black-colored sedan intended to randomly attack Westerners.

Later in the day, police clashed with the suspect, who was wanted by state security, while he returned the car to a rental shop in a Kuwait City suburb. He shot at police and escaped into a waiting car, whose occupants also took part in the shootout.

The man, identified as Fawaz Tlaq al-Otaibi, was later arrested. He had been injured in the shootout and died in the hospital. The gunbattle, the first of its kind in a residential area, also left two policemen dead and two injured.

Linda Steffen, 26, believed Monday's events were "a little out of the ordinary for Kuwait."

She said she makes a point of looking around more carefully as she is driving, but that was the only extra measure she was taking.

"I love Kuwait," said Steffen, of Salt Lake City. A marketing manager for a shipping company, she has been in Kuwait for eight months.

"I go to sleep at night without worrying about my safety."

# Study eyes benefits of wired military family

BY WARD SANDESON

Stars and Stripes

Boston University is leading a study to plug the Great American Military Household into... well, itself. And into school and the doctor, too.

The university recently announced the Technologically Connected Home Project, paid for through grants from the Army and Nielsen Media Research. The three-year program will study 500 military households to see whether using things like the Internet as a low-cost, long-distance telephone line catch on with families often separated.

"One of the realities of the military family is it's a family in transition, there's a move to and from a base," said John Henderson, director of the Boston University Institute for Leading in a Dynamic Economy. "There's a changing of careers and a changing of venues relative to a career. Military families are really families in motion."

A child who moves to a new school could connect with the old to smooth transition. A family at a remote base could access doctors via video. And using Voice over Internet Protocol voice communication, a soldier-parent serving far away could keep in touch without paying long-distance fees.

"We kind of think of the home as a nucleus of an atom, and the family members are spinning around it," Henderson said. "They're the electrons."

The idea here was to keep those elec-

## Army hopes new technology creates more content, cohesive community

trons in touch, no matter how far from home they fly.

"Make life better for soldier families and you can make better soldiers," said William Armbruster, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for privatization and partnerships, in a prepared statement.

"Army readiness is inextricably linked to the well-being of the whole family. When deployed, soldiers need to know that their families are safe, housed, and have access to medical care, community services, and educational opportunities. If technology in the home can make that all possible, then everyone wins and every soldier's win."

Soldiers are both the subjects of the study and the end client. The study will cost about \$1 million per year, with the Army paying for 25 percent of it and Nielsen picking up the bulk of the rest. Acts Lend Lease and the Picerno Real Estate Group will provide sites for the new homes. The study will begin with volunteers at Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Meade, Md., though the program should expand to three other bases. There are no plans now to expand the study overseas, but Henderson said he couldn't rule it out. The program is part of the Army's Residential Communities Initiative, a push to rebuild 70,000 military homes in the next five years.

Harvard Medical School and the Army surgeon general are involved on the telemedicine side. Nielsen believes the technology could have applications beyond the military. "This is not making a new secret device or something, this is something the private sector can be very supportive of," said Robert Luff, chief technology officer at Nielsen Media Research. One of the technologies Nielsen is excited

about is notes, tiny devices that measure movement or temperature or virtually anything.

"Imagine something like a stack of three or four nickels, and in that there's a battery like a hearing aid battery and a chip," Luff said.

They're small and don't draw much attention to themselves, which helps researchers not influence the behavior of those being studied. They could help researchers tell whether members of a family eat dinner together or watch television or simply go out to eat.

Other smart devices could be used for maintenance purposes.

"Examples would be RFID tags on appliances," said Dennis O'Connor, a project spokesman, referring to radio frequency identification technologies. "If they need service or maintenance, they would automatically contact a distributor or someone."

But such an electric eye could spoil some, as the researchers are well aware. The data that the home project collects will not go directly to the Army or companies, but to researchers who will analyze it. The analysis is what the military and companies finally receive.

"We are the mechanism that ensures the privacy of the family," Henderson said. "Boston University researchers are the only ones who have access to the data."

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at sandersonw@mid.estrps.osd.mil

*"Army readiness is inextricably linked to the well-being of the whole family. ... If technology in the home can make that all possible, then everyone wins."*

William Armbruster

Deputy assistant secretary of the Army for privatization and partnerships

# U.S., Russia near agreement to limit missile trafficking

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States and Russia are close to completing an agreement designed to limit trafficking in portable air-defense missiles, which some security experts fear terrorists could use against commercial airliners, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said Tuesday.

At a joint news conference with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Ivanov provided few details but said the proposed accord re-

flected a common interest between the United States and Russia in constraining the unauthorized movement of these weapons around the world.

"You know full well that terrorists of all hues and stripes" have sought to obtain them, he said.

Ivanov, speaking through an interpreter, said "an agreement on the exchange of information" on portable air-defense weapons would be signed by the two countries "pretty soon."

He said the agreement was put together quickly "because it was in the best interests of both states to maximally constrain" the movement of such weapons, such as the American-made Stinger shoulder-fired missiles the CIA supplied to Afghan rebels fighting Soviet forces in the 1980s.

Ivanov said "negligible amounts" of Russian-made air-defense weapons also were in Afghanistan, and they are included in the inventories of many central and eastern European countries.

Rumsfeld did not comment on the deal and other U.S. officials did not immediately have any information.

After a meeting with President Bush at the White House, Ivanov told reporters he and Rumsfeld had briefly filled the president in on the "understanding" between the governments of the two countries to control the movements of such weapons.

Typically, these relatively cheap weapons are small, rocket or et-propelled warheads with heat-seeking sensors. They are designed to be triggered from a



U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld listens to Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov during a news conference Tuesday at the Pentagon in Washington. The United States and Russia are nearing a deal that would have the two nations working together to limit terrorists trafficking in air-defense missiles.

tube-like, disposable launcher and to follow the heat of a jet engine's exhaust to its source. The CIA-backed rebels in Afghanistan used Stingers to great effect against Russian helicopters and other low-flying aircraft during the 1980s.

Ivanov also said he had accepted a U.S. invitation for Russian forces to participate in a U.S.-based military exercise to "handle" nuclear safety issues while transporting nuclear munitions. He did not elaborate.

Later, the Pentagon issued a brief statement saying the United States will host six Russian observers at a nuclear weapons convoy security exercise this spring. It gave no details.

Ivanov said his session with Bush laid the groundwork for a meeting between the U.S. president and Russian President Vladimir Putin, scheduled for Feb. 24 in the Slovak Republic while Bush is traveling through Europe. Ivanov and Bush talked

about hotspots such as Iran and Afghanistan; the joint commitment to fight terrorism; their desire to reduce the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and bilateral military exercises, he said.

The two did not discuss the political situation in Russia's neighbor, Ukraine, but Ivanov did not rule it out as a topic of discussion when he returns to the White House on Wednesday to meet with national security adviser Condoleezza Rice. Rice has been nominated to be the next secretary of state.

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AP photos

Washington Gov.-elect Christine Gregoire was to be sworn in on noon Wednesday after a general election and two recounts.



Republicans believe Dino Rossi may have lost the governor's race because some servicemembers overseas did not receive their absentee ballots.

# Washington state finds no overseas ballot problems

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Washington state election officers and military officials say they have found no evidence of problems with overseas military absentee ballots, despite allegations that many may not have been delivered or counted.

"We're seeing allegations made that large numbers of military voters did not get ballots, but we think that's partisan rhetoric over a close election," said Pam Floyd, assistant elections director for the state. "And we believe all military ballots signed by Washington voters and received were counted."

But state Republicans believe that hundreds of overseas servicemembers never received their ballots, and that may have stolen the election from their gubernatorial candidate, Dino Rossi.

"We're getting tons of calls and e-mails from troops overseas who didn't receive their ballots, or who got them weeks after the election," said Mary Lane, spokeswoman for Rossi. "We're looking at a lot of disenfranchised military voters."

Lane provided Stars and Stripes with complaints from 14 family members who have loved ones in the military, most deployed overseas, who did not receive absentee ballots. The Rossi campaign said it has heard from 260 voters who claim not to have received ballots, though not all of them are military.

Department of Justice officials would not comment on news reports that the federal government is investigating whether state elections officials broke the law by sending out the ballots too late. Republicans have filed suit to mandate a new election before

cause of the military issues and other supposed voting irregularities.

In November, Rossi was named the winner of the general election by 261 votes and won a machine recount by 42, but a second, manual recount last month showed Democrat Christine Gregoire with a 129-vote margin of victory.

Last month, Secretary of State Sam Reed, a Republican, certified the election results in Gregoire's favor, and on Tuesday the state House and Senate, both controlled by Democrats, followed suit. The Democrat was to have been sworn in as governor on Wednesday.

Washington was the last state to send out its overseas ballots, with all but one county mailing them by Oct. 8, Floyd said. That left 39 days for overseas military personnel to receive and return the votes, which were accepted until 14 days after the November election.

Joe Hitt, spokesman for Fort Lewis in Washington, said none of the Army Reserve units currently deployed overseas have reported problems over missing or damaged ballots.

"It just seems to be something that's being blown up in the press," he said. "We haven't heard any complaints about ballots."

But Lane said her office has heard numerous complaints, even from troops who double-checked their registration and mailing addresses to make sure they received ballots.

Department of Defense officials did not return calls seeking comment on the ballot controversy. Arguments in the GOP court challenge will begin Friday.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.com

# Abizaid, Turkey to discuss expanding Incirlik operations

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

The overall commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East visited Turkey's capital Ankara on Tuesday, apparently hoping to narrow differences between the two NATO allies, especially when it comes to Iraq.

Scheduled to visit Turkey for two days, Gen. John Abizaid, U.S. Central Command commander, is to meet with top Turkish government and military officials about expanding U.S. operations at Incirlik Air Base in south-central Turkey, according to a Turkish official who asked not to be identified.

That official said he had no details, but U.S. officials apparently want to fly cargo into Iraq from Incirlik, according to a story in Wednesday's Los Angeles Times. A Iraq, transportation security has led U.S. officials to use air transportation rather than road convoys to move people and materiel.

Though operations there have been reduced dramatically since the U.S. invaded Iraq in March 2003, the United States still is a tenant at Incirlik. The Air Force has based there "a limited number of KC-135 refueling aircraft that support the mobility air bridge for Operations Enduring Freedom (in Afghanistan) and Iraqi Freedom," wrote Capt. Rickardo Boddien, spokesman for the 9th Air Base Wing at Incirlik, in an e-mail response to a Stars and Stripes query.

Boddien referred all other questions to U.S. European Command officials in Stuttgart, Germany, who in turn referred questions to CENTCOM headquarters in Tampa, Fla.

Abizaid's meetings with Turkish officials "are behind closed doors ... and I'm not privy to those meetings going on now," said Cmdr. Nick Balice, a CENTCOM spokesman. Balice declined to disclose what issues Abizaid is discussing with Turkish officials.

"Since September 11th, our set of strategic interests has shifted somewhat and it's going to be some time before that sorts itself out," Abizaid said in a Tuesday news conference, acknowledging growing differences between Turkey and the United Kingdom. "I don't think that that's surprising, but the U.S. and Turkey are working together very closely in a variety of areas."

There may be some quiet pro qu involved for both countries to get what they want.

U.S. officials want increased access to Incirlik in southeastern Turkey, about 400 miles west of the Iraq border, the Turkish



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

source said. The Turks, still fighting Kurdish separatists in the southeast, want the United States to push fighters from the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, out of northern Iraq, he said.

Abizaid demurred, saying the Jan. 30 elections in Iraq are the first priority for U.S. forces, according to the Turkish source.

During his two-day visit, Abizaid is to meet Deputy Chief of General Staff Gen. Ilker Baskin and

*Though operations at Incirlik have been reduced dramatically since March 2003, the United States still is a tenant.*

Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül of the Justice and Development Party, a conservative, Islamic-oriented party that has ruled secular Turkey since 2002.

The United States has had access to a limited number of Turkish bases and intelligence facilities since 1952, when Turkey joined NATO. From the end of the Persian Gulf War in 1991

through 2003, the United States and Britain used Incirlik and an air force base in northern Iraq near the Iraq border — to fly Operation Northern Watch missions over northern Iraq. Those missions stopped then-Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from harassing minorities in the north, including the Kurds, while providing Turkey intelligence on Kurdish militant groups.

Even at the height of Northern Watch, when an average of 5,000 Americans were based at Incirlik, Turkish military officials placed strict limits on what they did.

The Turks allowed Northern Watch planes to fly 50 hours per month, but no more than three hours per day, and no more than three days per week, a spokesman at Turkey's Defense Ministry told Stars and Stripes in 2002. Northern Watch commanders were allowed no more than 48 aircraft at Incirlik.

The Turkish General Staff approved all Northern Watch operations schedules a month in advance, the Northern Watch commander at the time told Stars and Stripes.

Turkey opposed the second Gulf War and forbade the United States to launch offensive missions off Turkish soil, allowing only medical missions, refueling and troop rotations to and from Iraq and Afghanistan via Incirlik.

E-mail Terry Boyd at: tboyd@stripes.com  
Levent Uenal in Ankara contributed to this report.

# Missile defense 'glitch' won't delay future testing

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The failure of an interceptor missile to launch during a December test of the Pentagon's soon-to-be-activated missile defense system was caused by a "minor glitch" in its computer software, and the setback will not delay future testing, a senior official said Wednesday.

It was the first time the booster rocket was to be tested with a new and improved "kill vehicle," the device atop the rocket that uses computer codes and sensors to guide itself into the path of an incoming enemy missile. The device "kills" the target by colliding with it.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry A. Obering, director of the Missile Defense Agency, said the Dec. 15 test will be redone in mid-February, and additional tests in April, July and September will proceed as planned.

In the meantime, the eight missile interceptors that are now in underground silos in Alaska and California are capable of being activated for use against an actual missile attack against the United States, Obering told reporters.

He said he did not know when the system, which links the interceptor missiles with a network of tracking radars and a command post, would be formally declared ready for use. The Bush administration had made it a goal to activate the system by the end of 2004, citing North Korea as the primary threat to launch a ballistic missile capable of reaching the United States.

Obering said his agency plans to have 18 interceptors in silos by the end of this year.

In the Dec. 15 test, a target missile — a simulated ICBM with a mock warhead — was launched without problem from Kodiak, Alaska.

But the interceptor that was to fly into the target's path in outer space, destroying it by direct impact, did not launch from its pad at the Ronald Reagan Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll in the central Pacific Ocean.

Obering said the blame lay with an automated pre-launch check of the communications flow between the interceptor and the main flight control computer. In response, the Pentagon will increase the pre-launch tolerance for missed messages.



## IN THE STATES

## Death toll at 10 in Calif. mudslide

Bodies of mother and three children latest found; searches continue

BY GREG RISLING

The Associated Press

LA CONCHITA, Calif. — Rescuers searching with shovels, their bare hands and tiny video cameras dropped into holes found the bodies of a woman and three of her children before dawn Wednesday, bringing the death toll from a mudslide in this seaside hamlet to 10, officials said.

Ventura County Fire Capt. Danny Rodriguez said the bodies were found as crews worked around the clock for a second straight night, swarming over the debris pile under a clear sky and powerful lights.

The four dead were the wife and three daughters of La Conchita resident Jimmie Wallet, Ventura County sheriff's chaplain Ron Matthews told The Associated Press.

The storms also were blamed for flooding that destroyed houses in Arizona and Utah.

Twelve people were still listed as missing after Monday's 30-foot-deep mudslide, which was triggered by five days of nearly nonstop rain. But officials said that number was expected to be reduced to eight to reflect the discovery of the mother and children. With the 10 known dead at La Conchita, the storm's toll in California since Friday rose to 25.

Wallet had been among the most visible of the town's resi-



dents since the slide as he frantically searched alongside firefighters for his 37-year-old wife, Mechelle, and daughters Hannah, 10, Raven, 6, and Paloma, 2.

After the bodies were found, friends took him out of town with his 16-year-old daughter. Wallet was out getting ice cream when the slide hit, while his teen daughter was in Ventura.

"I'm very pleased with the hard work and all the effort in finding my family," Wallet said in a statement released by Matthews.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger planned to visit the area Wednesday.

The days of torrential rain also triggered fatal traffic accidents all across the state, knocked out power to hundreds of thousands, imperiled holidays homes and caused flash floods.

In La Conchita, firefighters remained hopeful they might still find at least some people alive.

By early Wednesday, no new sounds had been heard under the rubble for more than 24 hours. But Ventura County Fire Chief Bob Roper said teams would continue looking and listening for signs of life.

"We're still finding voids," he

Emergency workers search through home debris Tuesday for possible survivors trapped inside collapsed houses after a mudslide in the tiny coastal town of La Conchita, Calif. A hillside toppled Monday, damaging more than a dozen homes and burying others under 25 feet of mud and rock, leaving at least six people dead.

AP

said, referring to air pockets survivors could use to breathe. "We're still going to continue this as a search and rescue operation."

Crews were bringing in a radar device Wednesday to scan into the debris pile, he said.

Ten people were injured in the slide, which came down like a curving, rolling waterfall onto the tiny town between Highway 101 and a coastal bluff.

Fifteen homes were destroyed and 16 were damaged. Roper said the slide rolled homes over and intermixed debris, hindering efforts to identify the rubble of specific houses.

## More word of lasers hitting airplanes

BY LESLIE MILLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At least a dozen cases of lasers being beamed into aircraft cockpits since Christmas are being investigated by the FBI. The lasers can temporarily blind pilots.

A cluster of incidents received wide attention between Christmas and New Year's Day, and the FBI says at least four more have occurred in the past week.

Authorities have continued to rule out terrorism.

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta was briefing reporters Wednesday about the issue at the Federal Aviation Administration's aeronautics research center in Oklahoma City.

Mineta was expected to announce new measures for alerting pilots and preparing them to react when lasers are shined at their aircraft. He was also expected to outline ways to notify law enforcement investigators more quickly.

Last week, a pilot told law enforcement officials that a green light appeared on the nose of his aircraft as it was taking off from the Burbank, Calif., airport.

"To our knowledge there was no damage to the aircraft," said Cathy Viray, spokeswoman for the FBI in Los Angeles.

Last weekend, two pilots near Washington Dulles International Airport reported lasers beamed at them, according to FBI spokeswoman Debra Weierman.

The first incident occurred Saturday and involved a helicopter from the Fairfax County (Va.) Police Department; the other happened Sunday to a US Airways Express flight.

Weierman said the bureau was investigating. There have been no arrests and neither pilot was affected by the laser light, she said.

Beginning Christmas night, there were reports of lasers pointed at aircraft cockpits in Cleveland, Houston, Colorado Springs, Colo., Medford, Ore., and Nashville, Tenn. Many of the reports described a green beam.

A New Jersey man was arrested and charged last week for aiming a green laser at a small jet flying over his home near Teeterboro Airport.

## Bond set in civil rights case

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — Edgar Ray Killen, the reputed Klansman charged with the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers in rural Mississippi, was ordered held Wednesday on \$250,000 bond as he awaits a March 28 trial.

Circuit Judge Marcus Gordon also ordered that Killen be able to post the bond, he must report to the sheriff each week on his whereabouts.

Killen, a 78-year-old part-time preacher, stood in an orange jail jumpsuit and nodded when the judge asked him if he could hear. The lifelong resident of this Mississippi town had said after his arraignment last week that he was unable to afford an attorney despite owning 20 acres of land, a small sawmill and vehicles.

## 2 killed in Tennessee rampage

JACKSON, Tenn. — A man was being held Wednesday after a bloody rampage at a state

maintenance garage. The man's estranged wife and two others were killed, and two others were wounded.

Homicide and attempted homicide charges were expected to be filed against David Jordan, 40, police said.

According to police, Jordan — armed with an assault rifle, a 12-gauge pump shotgun, a 9 mm semiautomatic pistol and a .45-caliber semiautomatic pistol — walked into the Department of Transportation garage Tuesday and opened fire on his wife, department employee Donna Renee Jordan, 31. She died at the scene.

## FTC shuts down e-mail porn ads

WASHINGTON — Claiming a victory against X-rated spam, the Federal Trade Commission won an order to shut down illegal Internet advertising for sex companies accused of profiting from sexually explicit e-mail.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Philip M. Pro in Las Vegas on Tuesday granted the commission's request for preliminary injunctions against the companies, their executives and

an affiliate, which would last the length of the FTC's civil suit against them. The FTC says the defendants violated federal laws regulating commercial electronic mail, commonly known as spam.

## Dean seeks to lead Democrats

WASHINGTON — Former presidential candidate Howard Dean has decided to seek the party's chairmanship.

Dean's entry into the race appears to pre-empt another bid for the presidency in 2008. The chairman's job carries a four-year term and Dean has said that anyone who serves as chairman should be ruled out as a presidential candidate.

Dean joins a field that includes former Indiana Rep. Tim Roemer, former Texas Rep. Martin Frost, Democratic activists Simon Rosenberg and Donnie Fowler, Denver Mayor Wellington Webb and former Ohio Democratic Party chairman David Leland.

Democrats will vote on a party chairman in early February.

From wire reports

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# Justices find fault with federal sentencing

## Supreme Court ruling targets system allowing judges to lengthen prison terms

BY GINA HOLLAND  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that federal judges have been improperly adding time to criminals' sentences, a decision that puts in doubt longtime sentencing rules.

The court, on a 5-4 vote, said that its ruling last June that justices — not judges — should consider

factors that can add years to defendants' prison sentences applies as well to the 17-year-old federal guideline system.

The justices refused to backtrack from a 5-4 decision that struck down a state sentencing system because it gave judges too much leeway in sentencing. But the high court stopped short of striking down the federal system.

Justice Stephen Breyer said the federal sentencing system is

at least in part invalid because it forces judges to use the guidelines, but he said that the system could be salvaged if judges use it on an advisory basis.

About 64,000 people are sentenced in federal courts each year, under a system that had been challenged as unconstitutional in a pair of cases at the Supreme Court.

The federal guidelines are intended to make sure sentences do

not vary widely from court-room-to-courtroom.

While judges consider guilt or innocence, judges make factual decisions that affect prison time, such as the amount of drugs involved in a crime, the number of victims in a fraud or whether a defendant committed perjury during trial.

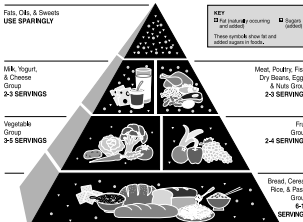
The high court's vote to require more jury participation was 5-4 and included the same odd

right-left combination of justices as those who had held sway in June.

Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas are the court's most conservative members. Justices John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg are in the liberal wing. The four justices wrote: "History does not support a 'right to jury trial' in respect to sentencing facts."

### Food Guide Pyramid

A Guide to Daily Food Choices



Shown is the USDA's original food pyramid, created 12 years ago. Revised dietary guidelines issued Wednesday emphasize eating whole grains and more fruits and vegetables.

# Calories, exercise part of new diet guidelines

BY LIBBY QAID  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government on Wednesday urged most Americans to eat fewer calories and exercise 30 to 90 minutes a day, updating guidelines that advised people to lose weight but gave few specifics on how to do it.

The new dietary guidelines will be used to update the familiar food pyramid, which most people recognize but few heed. The revision will be the pyramid's first since it was created 12 years ago.

Federal officials acknowledged that much of the advice will not be new to Americans, who spent millions on diet books trying to lose weight.

"It's really common sense. Do you want to look better? Do you want to feel better?" Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said. "You lower your calorie intake, you lower your carbs, your fats. You eat more fruits and vegetables, and you exercise. That's as simple as it is. That is not too hard."

The guidelines, developed by HHS and the Agriculture Department, strengthen the government's advice on whole grains, telling people to choose whole

grains such as whole wheat bread instead of refined ones like white bread or bagels.

People should also eat a lot more vegetables and fruit, particularly whole fruits and vegetables rather than juices, the guidelines said. And they recommend three one-ounce servings of whole grains each day, such as certain unsweetened breakfast cereals, to reduce the risk of heart disease and help maintain weight.

The guidelines were based on recommendations of a 13-member panel of scientists and doctors. The committee said people lead sedentary lifestyles and choose their food poorly, leading many to exceed the calories they need even as they fail to get enough exercise.

Controlling calories — not limiting carbohydrates, as some popular diets recommend — is key to controlling weight, the panel said. Also key is daily exercise. The panel recommended a minimum of at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise — brisk walking or gardening — on most days.

But it said many adults need to exercise for 60 minutes or more to prevent weight gain, and people who have lost weight may need to exercise for 60 to 90 minutes to keep it off.

BY DEB RIECHMANN  
The Associated Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — President Bush on Wednesday began his push to require high school students to take the math and reading tests now required of younger students under the No Child Left Behind law, the most ambitious item on the president's slate of second-term education proposals.

"Testing is important," Bush said at J.E.B. Stuart High School in this Washington suburb. "Testing at high school levels will help us become more competitive as the years go by. Testing in high schools will make sure that our children are employable for the jobs of the 21st century. ... Testing will make sure the diploma is not merely a sign of endurance, but the mark of a young person ready to succeed."

In education, Bush's focus is on high schools and on expanding the No Child Left Behind Act that is designed to raise achievement among poor and minority children and penalize schools that don't make adequate yearly progress.

"We're not interested in medi-

ocrity," Bush said at the school, which was the lowest performing among those in relatively prosperous Fairfax County, Va., in 1997, but met its academic goals under No Child Left Behind Act in the 2003-04 school year. "We're interested in excellence so not one child is left behind in our country," he said.

Bush wants to require states to test students annually in reading and math in grades three through 11. That's an expansion of the law he signed in 2002, which requires those tests in grades three through eight, and at least once during grades 10 to 12.

The president also wants to require that the 12th grade National Assessment of Educational Progress be administered in every state in reading and math every two years.

Rep. George Miller of California, ranking Democrat on the House Education Committee, has said the idea of adding testing "is going to have rough sledding, not just on Capitol Hill but I think in communities all across the country." Miller says schools are struggling to keep up with the financial burden of their existing federal requirements, let alone new ones.



President Bush and Margaret Spellings, Bush's nominee to replace Rod Paige as secretary of Education, walk to the Oval Office at the White House on Wednesday.

# Guard comes to rescue of frozen town

BY MARY PEMBERTON  
The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — An Alaska National Guard helicopter rescued a frozen Arctic village with technicians who hoped to repair its electrical generator, which failed Sunday during a blizzard that sent the temperature to 20 below zero.

About 100 of Kaktovik's 300 residents were in the village's equipment maintenance building because a still had power. Others were heavily dressed and hunkered down in other buildings with stoves or small generators.

Alaska National Guard spokeswoman Kalei Brooks said the helicopter and a cargo plane approached the village Tuesday afternoon. Snow drifts on a runway kept the airplane from landing, but the helicopter touched down in Kaktovik itself 2 to 3 miles away.

The time on the ground was brief — just five to 10 minutes, Brooks said.

"It was on the ground long enough to offload the technicians they need to restore the power," she

said, plus about 600 pounds of portable generating equipment.

Conditions in Kaktovik were a little colder Tuesday with a reading of 25 degrees below zero and winds gusting up to 65 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

Earlier air attempts to reach Kaktovik were frustrated by "a complete, total whiteout," said Mike Haller, a spokesman for the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

People who couldn't leave their homes were using propane stoves, kerosene heaters and wood stoves to try to stay warm, or bundling up in arctic gear. No injuries have been reported, said Dennis O. Packer, also in the mayor's office.

Planes were under way to get another 4,000 pounds of generators, oil and other equipment to the northeast Alaska village, which is on Barter Island along the Beaufort Sea coast. It's the only village in the 196-mile-long Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Officials said if aircraft couldn't make the next delivery, the equipment would be loaded onto Slocum for a 100-mile overland trip from Deadhorse in the Prudhoe Bay oil fields.

# New Apple products going smaller, more affordable

BY MAY WONG  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Seeking to make inroads against lower-cost competitors, Apple Computer Inc. introduced a cut-rate computer the size of a paperback and a tiny iPod that starts at \$99 but holds far fewer songs than the company's hard drive-based music players.

The new products were introduced Tuesday by Apple CEO Steve Jobs at Macworld Expo.

The Mac mini computers go on sale Jan. 22 and represent Apple's first foray into the budget desktop PC arena, which has been largely confined to personal computers that rely on Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system.

Smaller than even some standalone external computer drives, they lack a monitor, mouse and keyboard. The 40-gigabyte Mac mini will cost \$499, an 80-gigabyte model \$599.

They'll ship with Apple's latest operating system, Mac OS X Panther, as well as the newest version of its iLife suite of digital media software programs, also unveiled Tuesday.

"People who are thinking of switching will have no more excuses," Jobs said. "It's the newest and most affordable Mac ever."

Apple has just a 3 percent share of the U.S. computer market, and company executives say they're aiming with the Mac mini to woo PC users who may have felt Apple products were too high-priced.

The iPod shuffle, on the other hand, seeks to build on Apple's heady success in the portable music business while appealing to people seeking flash memory-based players, which are more durable and lightweight than those using hard drives for storage — and thus better suited as exercise partners.

The shuffle is smaller than most packs of chewing gum, weighs less than an ounce and is a third of an inch thick.

Unlike its larger cousin, the iPod mini, the shuffle lacks a display. There's a scroll wheel for the controls so stored songs can either be played sequentially or automatically shuffled in random order.

Apple is selling two versions of the iPod shuffle.



APPLE COMPUTERS/AP  
Apple is releasing a new, smaller \$99 version of its popular iPod, as well as a mini computer selling for as low as \$499.

The smallest-capacity model will have 512 megabytes of storage, which holds up to 120 songs, and costs \$99. A one-gigabyte version, which holds up to 240 songs, will sell for \$149.

Until Tuesday, the lowest cost iPod was the mini, which costs \$249 for four gigabytes — enough to store about 1,000 songs.

## Illinois House passes gay rights bill

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The Illinois House on Tuesday passed a bill that bans discrimination against gays and sent it to Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who has said he supports the measure.

If the Democratic governor signs it, Illinois will join 13 other states that bar discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"This legislation sends a clear message that we will not allow our citizens to be discriminated against," Blagojevich said in a statement.

The measure would add "sexual orientation" to the state law that protects people from bias based on race, religion and similar traits. It applies to discrimination in such areas as jobs and housing.

Opponents argued it would lead to approval of gay marriage and allow cross-dressers to use rest rooms of the opposite sex.

## Clinton defends women's rights

NEW YORK — U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton urged hundreds of supporters of women's rights not to give up despite difficulties created by President Bush's policies.

The New York Democrat, who was a keynote speaker at the 1995 U.N. women's conference in Beijing, told the annual awards dinner of the International Women's Health Coalition Tuesday night that "the current administration is making it more difficult for women to receive the full range of health services."

The platform adopted at the 1994 U.N. population conference in Cairo says women have the "right to make decisions concerning reproduction, free of discrimination, coercion and violence." The Beijing platform says women have the right to decide "on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health."

## New England has flu shot surplus

BOSTON — The New England states, which just three months ago struggled to get enough flu vaccine for their residents, now have a glut of the medicine, raising the possibility that surplus shots will be thrown away at the end of the flu season.

The Boston Globe has determined that more than 300,000 doses of flu vaccine still may be available in all six states in the region.

In Vermont, officials are pushing to get rid of 5,000 remaining doses of flu vaccine.

States around the country imposed vaccine restrictions in October after British regulators unexpectedly shut down a major U.S. vaccine supplier due to concerns about bacterial contamination. Initially, healthy children and adults under 75 were barred from getting shots.

From The Associated Press



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## OPINION

## Tort system inflicts its 'pain and suffering'

BY SEBASTIAN MALLABY

The Washington Post

President Bush has waded into two big domestic policy arguments: Social Security reform and the overhaul of the tort system. On the first issue, he should tread gently. Social Security needs to be shored up, but it's fundamentally a good program. On the second issue, an elephantine trampling would be kind. The tort system is an abomination.

The most complete study of the tort system's cost comes from the consulting firm Tillingham-Towers Perrin. Tillingham's clients are mainly insurers, which are at loggerheads with the trial jury, so you may mistrust its data. Nonetheless, Tillingham has published seven updates to its original 1985 study, refining its methodology along the way. Its numbers are the best available. And they are stunning.

In 2003, according to Tillingham, the tort system cost \$246 billion — meaning the average American paid \$845 for it via more-expensive goods and services. But the really shocking thing is where the billions went. Injured plaintiffs — the fabled little guys for whom the system is supposedly designed — got less than half the money.

According to Tillingham's 2002 data, plaintiff lawyers swallowed 19 percent of the \$233 billion. Defense lawyers pocketed an additional 14 percent, and other administrative costs, mainly at insurance firms, accounted for a further 21 percent. The legal-administrative complex thus guzzled fully 54 percent of the money in the tort system, or \$126 billion. That's 43 times as much as the federal government has budgeted this year to combat the global AIDS pandemic.

No other system for compensating mis-

fortune has such outrageous administrative costs. To guard against the possibility of sickness, people buy medical insurance; the health insurance industry, justly regarded as a paper-clogged nightmare, has administrative costs of 14 percent. To guard against the danger of disability, we have the Social Security program. The overhead for the Social Security disability system is around 3 percent. If you want a really good number to set against the 54 percent overhead in the tort system, just take a look at Medicare. Its overhead is about 2 percent.

So the tort system's administrative costs are a scandal. But are its other costs much better? Of the 46 cents per dollar in the system that actually make it to plaintiffs, 22 cents are paid out to compensate people for economic damages, including damaged property, lost wages and medical expenses. The other 24 cents are paid to compensate plaintiffs for "pain and suffering." Should we really want a system that pays out billions for emotional distress? A little thought suggests we shouldn't.

A tort system is a form of insurance: Consumers accept higher prices for products and services in exchange for the chance to be compensated if the product or service harms them. Outside the tort system, we have plenty of examples of people buying insurance or warranties. People insure their cars, homes, refrigerators; they want protection against financial setbacks. But people don't buy much insurance to protect themselves from pain and suffering; their revealed preference is that they don't want it. So why have a tort system that provides more than \$50 billion in pain-and-suffering awards annually?

If the administrative costs are a scandal, and the pain-and-suffering payouts are dubious, what can be said for the residual 22 percent of the money in the tort system?



Perhaps this portion — the part that finances economic damages for plaintiffs — is defensible? Actually, you can't even defend this chunk, because the money is distributed so badly. People who suffer small and medium-size losses usually get nothing. Claims have to be in the hundreds of thousands before they are economic to litigate. Big claims do get compensated, but at a rate that depends on the location of the trial, the composition of the jury and the depth of the defendant's pockets — not just on the size of the injury.

The haphazard nature of tort payouts undermines the potential salutary effect on corporate behavior. If manufacturers can't

predict what they might be sued for and how much, they won't reach rational decisions about making their products safer. Sure enough, studies of injury rates often find no evidence that a rise in litigation is followed by an increase in safety.

Bush is pushing three kinds of tort reform, and all of them are worthy. But the ultimate goal should be to shrink the tort system radically. Measured as a share of GDP, America's tort system is more than twice as expensive as it was in 1960, twice as expensive as the current systems in France or Canada, and three times as expensive as the system in Britain. A reasonable goal for the American tort system is to halve it.

## Passengers tired of taking a flier when in the air

Los Angeles Times

Last week's move by Delta Airlines to lower and simplify its fares might trigger an overdue shakeout of the nation's airline industry, which last year posted losses in excess of \$3 billion and is more than \$25 billion in the hole for the decade. More of the nation's major airlines should have become extinct by now — joining such hallowed names as Eastern and Pan Am in the afterlife — but companies have been allowed to keep flying by overly indulgent bankruptcy laws and clumsy government interference with the free market.

No industry has done a better job of gaming the bankruptcy system.

For carriers like US Airways and United, bankruptcy seems less a safe harbor from creditors in which to reorganize than an ongoing part of their business plan. Flying under bankruptcy, as five airlines do, provides an unfair advantage over competitors, a license to continue losing money without facing the consequences. Worst of all, excessive reliance on this life support has stymied overall development of the industry and slowed growth of a new generation of healthy, low-cost airlines.

There is something about the airline business that turns members of Congress from both parties into hopeless socialists, unwilling to allow the market to allocate resources — in this case the skies, planes and those airport gates that their most inefficient use. Members of Congress care deeply about airlines, even beyond saving jobs in a given district, because they offer the

means of escape from Washington, not to mention sizable frequent-flyer awards.

The Bush administration deserves credit for resisting congressional pressure, including from House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., to grant airlines more aid on the bogus theory that their ongoing woes stem from the Sept. 11 attacks. But there is still far too much interference with the free market in the business, as exemplified by the government's refusal in 2001 to allow a distress merger between United and US Airways. Worse, Congress has refused to lift antiquated limits on foreign ownership of U.S.-based carriers, which has needlessly shut out investment capital and competition.

Without Washington's meddling, development of the multi-tiered industry that has so benefited consumers would accelerate. By multiple tiers, we mean a business in which not every airline strives to be all things to all people.

The older carriers' business model and labor costs were predicated on the notion that you can be simultaneously Neiman Marcus and Wal-Mart. And they would charge Neiman Marcus fares for Wal-Mart seats off you designed to fly on short notice, or chose not to be stranded where you didn't want to be over a Saturday night.

A multi-tiered industry would have fewer global and national carriers engaged

in more-meaningful competition, and more regional, lower-cost niche players. As the first of a new breed, Southwest Airlines — an enterprise that has saved U.S. households untold billions — succeeded against the odds, then beyond its expectations.

Southwest and newer successful low-cost carriers such as JetBlue and AirTran now carry nearly a third of domestic passengers. Their strength is reinforced by the Internet, which robbed carriers of their pricing power and shifted it to consumers.

Delta's move to cap last-minute fares and to away with Saturday-night-stay requirements is a recognition that it's a new world out there for fliers, one that no one in Washington should oppose.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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## IN THE WORLD

## U.S. military limited by Indonesia

Nation seeks to reassert control over troubled area

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — The U.S. military faced tighter restrictions Wednesday as the Indonesian government sought to reassert control over foreign troops, relief workers and journalists in the tsunami-devastated region, which also has been the site of a rebel insurgency.

In Paris, the world's wealthiest nations said they support a moratorium on debt repayments by countries stricken by the Dec. 26 disaster that has killed more than 150,000 people.

The moves by the Indonesian government, aimed primarily at U.S. troops, underscore the nationalistic country's sensitivities at having foreign military forces operating there — even in a humanitarian effort. They also came amid warnings from the Indonesian military that areas of tsunami-battered Aceh province may not be safe for aid workers.

Hundreds of troops from Australia, Singapore, Germany and other nations are helping the relief mission. The Indonesian military is providing security for all of them.

The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, which is leading the U.S. military's relief effort, steamed out of Indonesian waters Wednesday because the U.S. Navy only has permission from the Indonesians to fly aircraft into its airspace only for humanitarian operations, said Lt. Cmdr. John M. Daniels, spokesman for the Lincoln carrier strike group.

Such operations will not deliver aid to Sumatra's devastated coast, however.

Indonesia declined to let the ship's fighter pilots use its airspace for training missions. The country's air force has said that its fighter warplanes cannot go longer than 14 days without flying or their skills are considered to have degraded too far.

Such as the Abraham Lincoln has been stationed off Sumatra since Jan. 1, the carrier moved out of Indonesian waters so its pilots could conduct their training flights in international airspace.

Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla said foreign troops would be out of the country by March 31.



Survivors of the tidal wave disaster wait for their belongings to be taken to new refugee center outside Banda Aceh in Indonesia on Wednesday. Indonesian troops and volunteers are still clearing the dead from rubble after the Dec. 26 quake-triggered tsunami left its trail of destruction and claimed the lives of 106,000 people in Indonesia alone.

"A three-month period is enough, even the sooner the better," Kalla said.

The Pentagon said it is cooperating with foreign governments, but did not comment on the Indonesian deadline.

The Indonesian government also ordered aid workers and journalists to declare travel plans or face expulsion from Aceh as authorities moved to reassert control of the rebellion-wracked area.

The White House said Wednesday it has asked the Indonesian government to explain the restrictions on aid workers and journalists.

At a Paris meeting Wednesday, a French official said the world's wealthiest nations, including the United States, believe a temporary suspension of billions of dollars in debt repayments by tsunami-devastated countries will provide a necessary "breath of oxygen" for recovery and reconstruction from the disaster that killed more than 150,000 people across southern Asia.

While three debtor countries — Indonesia,

Sri Lanka and the Seychelles — support the moratorium, Thailand does not because it fears the potential effect on its standing in international financial markets, French Finance Minister Herve Gaymard told RFI radio.

The details on the moratorium were being finalized Wednesday.

Security concerns threaten to hamper efforts to deliver aid to Aceh province on the northern tip of Sumatra island, where more than 100,000 people were killed and tens of thousands left homeless or in need. The United Nations has been running the relief effort, appealing to donors attending a conference in Geneva to honor the unprecedented \$4 billion in pledges to help victims.

Separatists in the Aceh region have been fighting for an independent state for decades. Indonesia's military chief offered the rebels a cease-fire Tuesday, matching a unilateral one already declared by the insurgents.

The military has nevertheless warned that rebels could rob aid convoys and use refugee camps as hideouts but has yet to offer evidence to back its claims.

## Spy agency reforms

LONDON — Britain's foreign spy agency MI6 is appointing a senior new official to check the quality of its intelligence following flawed reporting on Iraqi weapons, the government said Wednesday.

The service also is hiring a top business executive to modernize its management structure, said a spokesman for the Foreign Office, which oversees MI6.

An official report last year criticized the agency's intelligence on Iraq, saying information about Saddam Hussein's weapons relied in part on "seriously flawed" or "unreliable" sources. In October, MI6 formally withdrew intelligence that Iraqi troops could deploy some chemical and biological weapons on 45 minutes' notice — a claim used as rationale for joining the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

## Possible cattle ban

TORONTO — The announcement by Canadian authorities of another case of mad cow disease could strengthen the case of a group of U.S. cattlemen who want a ban against cross-border cattle trade in the United States.

Authorities on Tuesday confirmed the case of the deadly brain-wasting disease in the western province of Alberta, the second animal found to have mad cow since U.S. officials announced last month they would resume the cattle trade with Canada.

Canadian officials said no part of the cow — the third case of the disease ever found in the country — has entered the human or animal feed system.

## 3 dead after UK storms

LONDON — Three people died after storms battered north Britain and Northern Ireland and 60,000 were without electricity in Scotland as the fierce winds continued Wednesday.

Across Scotland, roads and bridges were closed, ferry services abandoned and rail routes suspended as police and ambulance chiefs appealed to the public to postpone nonessential journeys.

Meanwhile some 10,000 homes in the northern English market town of Hexham remained without water due to flooding.

## Uzbek border patrols

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — The United States on Wednesday gave two patrol boats to Uzbekistan's border service as part of security assistance for the ex-Soviet country, the U.S. Embassy said.

The two Ukrainian-made Gyurza river patrol boats worth \$5.6 million are part of a U.S. Department of State's security assistance program for Uzbekistan signed in 2003, the embassy said in a statement.

The vessels are expected to be used to patrol the Amu Darya River along Uzbekistan's border with Afghanistan.

Under a new program, the State Department earlier provided U.S. border guard and security forces with training and equipment, including night vision devices, global positioning systems and helicopter flight simulators, the U.S. Embassy said.

From The Associated Press

# Germans detain 22 in raids

## New EU constitution approved

BY CONSTANT BRAND

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Parliament gave its overwhelming endorsement to the European Union's first-ever constitution Wednesday and urged EU governments to quickly follow suit.

The EU assembly, meeting in Strasbourg, France, voted 500 to 137, with 40 abstentions, to ratify the new treaty, which is to take effect in 2007 if unanimously ratified across the 25-nation bloc.

The 732-member parliament called on EU governments to move quickly to sell the constitution, which faces widespread opposition in several EU-skeptic countries.

The parliament said EU governments should ensure that "all possible efforts be deployed to inform European citizens clearly and objectively about the content of the constitution."

"The result of the vote leaves no room for doubt of the support this European parliament has ex-

pressed," said European Parliament President Josep Borrell after the legislators gave the result a boisterous standing ovation.

His remarks were heckled down by euro-skeptics members from the British UK Independence Party, all of whom voted against and held up placards protesting the constitution, with one saying "this constitution is the death of Europe."

The parliament's main four parties — conservative, socialist, liberal-democrat and greens — mostly voted in favor, while communists, far-right parties and British conservatives voted against.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, whose country holds the EU presidency, urged all EU governments and the European Parliament to ratify the treaty, signed in Rome last October after a two-year drafting process.

"This is an important moment in the history of the parliament, and it is an important moment in Europe's ratification of Europe's constitution," said Juncker.

The 460-article constitution provides for an EU foreign minister and a president to be appointed by the EU leaders.

It streamlines EU decision-making, ending vetoes in almost 50 new policy areas, including judicial and police cooperation, education and economic policy. But veto rights remain in sensitive areas such as foreign affairs, defense, social security, taxation and culture.

The constitution gives the EU simpler voting rules, ensuring that decisions are adopted if at least 65 percent of the member states are in agreement and they represent at least 55 percent of the EU population of 455 million people.

Also, it will be easier for nations to opt out of EU policies they don't like or band together and forge ahead without others being able to stop them as is now the case.

For the first time since the creation of the union in 1957, member states can voluntarily leave the bloc.

The Associated Press

ULM, Germany — German police stepped up their crackdown on Islamic extremism Wednesday, detaining 22 people during raids of apartments and mosques allegedly used by a network that provided financing and support to terrorists.

About 700 officers searched apartments, mosques and call centers on five German states, discovering militant Islamic propaganda and forged passports and visas, authorities said.

The raids capped a long-term investigation of 20 years ago who allegedly raised money through smuggling and producing false papers to "pursue their ideological goals," said prosecutors in Munich.

Eleven were formally arrested while 11 others were placed in provisional custody.

# Campaign tries humor to stop spread of AIDS

By EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — A new global campaign to stop the spread of AIDS uses three animated characters dressed as comedians who deliver a serious message in humorous public service spots in 41 languages: If you're going to have sex, use a condom.

The short spots are being offered free to broadcasters, community groups and universities and have the potential of reaching 80 percent of the world's population, Canadian producer-director Firdaus Kharas said Tuesday.

"We're using humor to stop the spread of AIDS," he said at a news conference launching the public service announcements, which are targeted at people aged 15 to 24 in countries threatened by the epidemic include India, China, Russia, the Caribbean and Central Asia.

The "Three Amigos" — named Shaft, Stretch and Dick — are pictured in a variety of settings from a spaceship to a soccer field to a casino. Twenty different spots are available in each of the 41 languages and vary from 20 to 60 seconds in length. Some spots are blatantly sexual, others more restrained.

The punch line in the space-spott says: "No condom. No blastoff. Stop the spread of AIDS."

The soccer spot says: "You just can't score without a con-

dom."

And the spot focusing on a roulette wheel in a casino says: "Not all gamblers realize the odds stacked against them. Don't gamble with your life. Use a condom. Stop the spread of AIDS."

Kharas said the idea for the spots came from his co-producer, South African film writer Brent Quint, who believes that

AIDS is "a preventable disease," and that using animated figures and humor can get across the message that condoms are essential for safe sex.

The spots are currently being shown in South Africa, Canada and the Netherlands and have already won 25 international awards and a strong endorsement from South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who called them "a powerful communicating tool to encourage people to change their behavior."

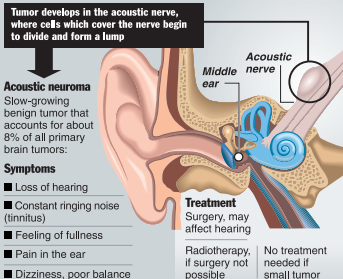
Frequent playing of the spots "has the potential to capture the imagination of young people through humor, the portrayal of situations to which they can easily relate and the portrayal of characters who express what in a normal situation would be an embarrassing to speak of," he said.

"I think we need to do everything possible to prevent the spread of AIDS," he said.

Kharas said the United States isn't a primary target for the campaign although spots have already been requested by a number of universities.

## Mobile phone risk

U.K. study advises children under the age of eight not to use mobile phones, as heavy use may be linked to ear tumors.



Source: CancerBACUP, National Radiological Protection Board

KRT

## Research finds cell phones bad for kids

By SUE LEEMAN

The Associated Press

LONDON — Parents should not give mobile phones to children age 8 or younger as a precaution against the potential harm of radiation from the devices, the chairman of the National Radiological Protection Board said Tuesday.

Some experts deemed the warning unfounded and unwarranted, but a company that launched a phone, aimed at young children it was suspending sales until it has time to evaluate it.

Sir William Stewart, chairman of the NRPB, said there's no conclusive evidence showing a clear danger, but said a growing body of research shows that mobile phone use may have health implications, making it wise to adopt a "precautionary approach," particularly with children.

"I do think we can put our hands on our hearts and say mo-

bile phones are safe," Stewart told a news conference. "When you come to giving mobile phones to 3- to 8-year-olds, that can't possibly be right."

The report cited recent studies in Sweden and Germany suggesting a potential health risk including brain tumors. It also noted research showing that radio waves can "interfere with biological systems" and a recent paper suggesting "possible effects on brain function resulting from the use of [next-generation] phones" which are becoming more common.

Many experts have dismissed those studies and other research performed to date as very inconclusive.

Still, while "there is no hard evidence at present that the health to the public, in general, is being affected adversely by the use of mobile phone technologies," Stewart said he was "more concerned" about the implications for health than five years ago, when he last reviewed the issue.

## South Korea gives green light for stem cell research

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korean team of scientists who produced the first cloned human embryo last year were given government approval Wednesday to proceed with stem-cell research to find cures for diabetes, cerebral palsy and Parkinson's and other diseases — but not for work toward human cloning.

The scientists, led by Professor Hwang Woo-Seok of Seoul National University, must follow detailed guidelines set by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in December, one of which allows ex-

perimentation with unused eggs at fertility clinics.

The guidelines were issued after the South Korean Parliament in January 2004 banned human cloning but left room for stem-cell research for curing diseases.

Earlier, Hwang's team successfully cloned a human embryo, from which they collected stem cells, the master cells that form during soon after conception and can turn into any tissue in the body.

"With today's action, Professor Hwang's team can spur their research under the government's supervision," the ministry said in a statement.

## Venice high and dry

VENICE, Italy — Often flooded by high waters, Venice is facing an exceptionally low tide these days, causing canals to dry up and water buses to be rerouted, officials said on Wednesday.

Water has gone down at least 27 inches below sea level, the city office monitoring tides said.

Tourist gondolas are not reported to have problems. The exceptionally low tide was caused by moon movements and a spell of sunny weather, the office said.

## Blair backs pub hours

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday passionately defended new public licensing laws that will allow Britons to drink around the clock and insisted it would not lead to an explosion in booze-fueled violence.

Later this year, restrictive licensing laws that require most pubs in England and Wales to close at 11 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 10:30 p.m. on Sundays will be lifted and bars will be able to apply for permissions to open any hours they like.

Opponents fear the change will encourage alcohol abuse and lead to increased violence in Britain's cities.

But Blair insisted a right to the majority must not be imposed because of an unruly minority.

## Scrap ATM not empty

OSLO, Norway — Arild Tofte and Kaare Hegdahl know that recycling old ATMs is not quite prepared for the jackpot that a scrapped cash machine contained.

The two Norwegians had been hired by the Sparebanken Moere bank to remove an outdated automatic teller machine, or ATM, from a gas station, media reported Wednesday.

During their rounds to pick up more scrap, they got a call saying a security guard was seeking the machine.

"The guy was apparently a bit agitated," said Tofte. "He was very eager to empty the cash from the machine."

The cash was removed. The bank, which blamed the incident on a communications mix-up — didn't say how much was in the ATM. But Tofte said the guard who emptied the machine told him it was enough to buy a house, take a luxury vacation and still have money to burn.

## Expensive convenience

GENEVA — Authorities in Geneva are bringing the city's scrubbing to a different level at a cost of \$13 million for just 35 new toilets, Swiss daily Le Matin reported Tuesday.

Each sparkling new facility is designed by a different architect at a cost of \$313,000 — the same as a one-bedroom, city center apartment.

Three of the toilets have already been installed. "Inside, they are functional and equipped to a high sanitary standard," the city council said on its Web site. "On the outside, each public toilet is different and adapted to its surroundings."

From wire reports

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## Mine deaths settled

**AL** BROOKWOOD — A settlement has been reached in lawsuits stemming from the nation's deadliest mining accident since 1984: a series of explosions at a central Alabama mine in 2001 that killed 13 miners.

The settlement resolved all civil legal proceedings associated with the Sept. 23, 2001, explosions against mine owner Jim Walter Resources, Walter Industries and its affiliated companies, according to a Jim Walter statement.

Company officials would not comment on the settlement details. "This has been a very difficult, emotional time for all whose lives have been affected by this tragedy," said George Richmond, president and chief operating officer of Jim Walter.

## Keep off the ice

**NH** CONCORD — Snowmobilers are being warned to stay off the ice after a weekend in which three snowmobilers went through thin ice into Lake Winnepesaukee. One died.

"The ice conditions are treacherous," Fish and Game Lt. Jim Goss said. "Most of the lake is still very open water."

Even close to shore, the ice was probably only 4 to 6 inches thick, Goss said.

## Suspect kills self

**VA** RICHMOND — Virginia State Police say a Connecticut man wanted in a murder investigation in Florida took his life late Monday as troopers closed in on him.

Officers were pursuing the man on Interstate 95 near Richmond when the man pulled over and shot himself in the head, said Sgt. Kevin Barrick.

The man, whose identity was not released, was pronounced dead at VCU Medical Center.

Key West Police notified Virginia authorities that the man and his 18-year-old son were heading for Connecticut in a white Lincoln Continental, Barrick said.

About 45 minutes after getting the alert, a trooper spotted the car. Barrick said the man's son was not in the car.

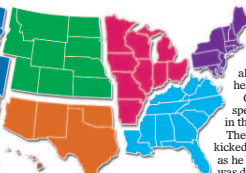
## Trucker gets prison time

**CO** BRECKENRIDGE — A driver who lost control of his tractor-trailer on Interstate 70 and caused a pileup that killed a man has been sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Rosario Saenz showed little emotion as Judge David Lass sentenced him to two six-year sentences for vehicular homicide and vehicular assault for the crash that injured 10 people.

Saenz, of El Paso, Texas, will serve the sentences after completing a federal sentence for transporting drugs into Texas from Mexico. That sentence ends next year.

Prosecutors said Saenz was going at least 35 mph over the speed limit on westbound I-70 between Silverthorne and the Eisenhower Tunnel when he crashed into a minivan, then smashed into three other vehicles and plowed over the guardrail into a ravine.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Bow hunt shot down

**VA** PORTSMOUTH — After a proposal to hold a public bow hunt of deer at Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve caused a stir, the foundation that runs the 142-acre property decided to drop the idea.

Instead, after consulting with a Fairfax County expert and counting the deer, the city is considering hiring police sharpshooters to shoot the animals to manage their population, Councilwoman Elizabeth M. Pisimas said.

Last year, the City Council quashed the idea of a bow hunt after representatives of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and residents flooded city offices with complaints.

### Striking it rich

**SD** SIOUX FALLS — Some city officials earn more than the mayor and even the governor, city officials said. Lyle Johnson, city public works director, heads the city's salary list at \$137,280. Gov. Rounds' yearly salary is \$103,221, which would put him in sixth place if he worked for the city. The mayor earns \$96,173.

### Principal sues police

**MS** SPRINGFIELD — A school principal is suing four city police officers who he says dragged him through the window of his car and beat him while he was having a diabetic attack.



### Smooth sailing

A sailboat floats down the Halifax River through late afternoon fog in Daytona Beach Shores, Fla.

Douglas Greer, a primary school principal, says police accused him of being a drug user before eventually getting him medical help.

Greer is seeking an unspecified amount of money in the federal lawsuit.

The suit says the officers kicked, choked and beat Greer as he repeatedly told them he was diabetic and needed juice or sugar.

The four officers have denied the accusations. A lawyer for two of them, Kevin Coyle, said his clients gave Greer "appropriate medical assistance."

The four have been placed on administrative duty, and the police commission is investigating Greer's claims.

### Kangaroo can stay

**WI** MADISON — A kangaroo that went on a walkabout of frigid Wisconsin just might settle down in the Midwest after all.

The red-haired marsupial, now known as "Roo," was captured outside of Dodgeville after sheriff's deputies cornered the 150-pound critter in a barn during a snowstorm.

Roo remains under quarantine at the Henry Vilas Zoo, and if no one claims it, zoo officials plan to introduce it to their other kangaroos to see if they get along.

But if things don't work out, Margaret Suter said she has room at her home near Madison, where she already keeps six kangaroos and a wallaby.

"I worried for that kangaroo. It lost its caregiver," Suter said. "And if you own one of these animals, you shouldn't turn your back on it."

### Governor urges tolerance

**OR** SALEM — Gov. Ted Kulongoski urged state legislators to pass a bill outlawing discrimination against homosexuals.

In his "state of the state" address to a joint session of the Legislature as it began its 2005 session, Kulongoski said he will submit a bill that would forbid discrimination against gays in employment, housing and public accommodations.

### Hospital shooting arrests

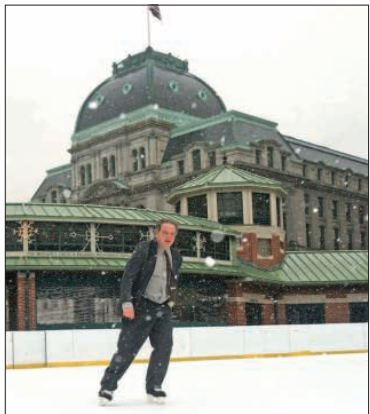
**MS** MERIDIAN — Two people were arrested Sunday in a fatal shooting at a hospital that may have been related to an earlier murder-suicide attempt, police said.

One of the suspects was arrested at Rush Foundation Hospital and the other turned himself in to police, Meridian Police Chief Benny Dubose said. Both were expected to be charged Monday.

The man fatally shot at the hospital was the son of a man who Dubose said shot himself and a woman at a Meridian home Sunday morning in an apparent murder-suicide attempt. Dubose said one of the suspects is the woman's son.

The man and woman found at the home did not suffer life-threatening injuries. The fatal shooting victim's name was not immediately released by authorities.

Police closed off the hospital for several hours after the shooting to search for the gunman.



### The cutting edge of fitness

Michael Rubin skates on the Fleet Center skating rink in front of the Providence, R.I., City Hall. Rubin is part of a growing number of adults hitting the ice for fitness and pleasure.



### Sledding fun

Mara Finley, left, and Ivy Johnson of Ludington, Mich., try to keep their balance as they sled at the water tower hill. Area schools were closed due to icy roads.



### Recycling Hawaii-style

Jenny Wells, of Kailua, Hawaii, center, gives her bags of aluminum cans to Mark Garcia, right, and Benjamin Onaga of Reynold's Recycling in Kailua. Hawaii recently became the first state in 16 years to pass a container redemption law. Hawaii has one of the most comprehensive programs in the country.





**Where's the steeple?** The steeple on Sacred Heart Church in Fried, N.D., is cut and removed from the building. The church will be moved in February from Fried to Sunset Memorial Gardens, a Jamestown, N.D., cemetery. The steeple will be erected at its original site in Fried with the three bells as a memorial for the cemetery there.



**A real cool cat** A cat bats around a chunk of snow while prowling around homes in Kallispell, Mont. According to an owner of a nearby home, the cat was abandoned when its family moved, but some neighbors adopted the cat and share in its feeding and caring.



## Brothers, one-on-one

Siblings Scott Zeiber, 16, left, and Justin Zeiber, 15, take advantage of the warm weather to play basketball in a parking lot behind their home in Phillipsburg, N.J.



**A patch of blue** Dark clouds driven by high winds break behind a windmill in Macedon, N.Y.

## Fired preacher won't go

**IN** MARION — Grace Missionary Baptist Church wants the pastor to quit preaching to the choir — and everybody else. And the church's trustees are going to court to stop him.

The Rev. Ed McDowell Jr., who served at the church for more than 13 years, was fired in December after a vote by both the trustees and members.

But McDowell, 63, continues to preach there because he says the vote was invalid. He has changed the locks at the church and has tried to fire church officials himself, court records said.

Church leaders have asked for a restraining order that would force McDowell to return church property, remove his personal belongings and block him from using church funds for his legal defense.

## Ballot pileup

**NH** DOVER — Old election ballots are taking up space in town and city halls across New England.

Laws require clerks to keep federal ballots for 22 months before destroying them, in case anyone requests a recount.

In New Hampshire, state law requires clerks to hold onto state and local election ballots for two months. In Maine, clerks must keep all ballots for the full 22 months.

Belmont's clerk is storing five large boxes full of ballots from the presidential primaries alone. Dover's city clerk is storing nearly 20,000 ballots from the November elections.

Town officials reported different plans for disposing of the ballots. Some will be shredded, others incinerated. Many ballots will go straight to the dump.

## Expanding its territory

**NM** SILVER CITY — Current boundaries of the wolf reintroduction program are causing too many wolves to be captured, removed from the wild or relocated.

That's according to a five-year review of the program by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Mexico and Arizona game and fish departments.

Government biologists propose an expansion of the area where the endangered Mexican gray wolves have been allowed to roam.

## Flag this one

**OH** CLEVELAND — Using two people and making 17 folds, a 19-year-old Boy Scout devised a way to fold the state's pennant-shaped flag into a rectangle. The solution became a new state law and earned Alex Weinstock his Eagle Scout ranking.

Ohio's state flag is the only one that doesn't have four 90-degree corners.

## Mom made her do it

**FL** MIAMI — A woman has pleaded guilty to sending her 11-year-old daughter outside their home in her nightgown to peddle heroin.

Alison Lolanda Davis, 37, was sentenced to five years in prison in a plea deal. She's been in jail since being arrested last January, unable to make \$120,000 bond, and was given credit for time served.

A prosecutor said proceedings

were pending in juvenile court to terminate Davis' parental rights. The girl, who was not charged, is in state custody along with a sister.

Police said they started watching the South Miami house in October 2003 based on a tip. Officers said they saw the girl regularly selling \$10 and \$20 doses of heroin to drivers and pedestrians.

## Nun's remark backfires

**NJ** WOODBRIDGE — Charges were dismissed against Sister Catherine Iacouzze, 69, who had been accused of threatening to knock out the teeth of a St. Cecelia School student for leaving class without permission.

The 11-year-old student's father withdrew the charges after the Diocese of Metuchen fired the nun. Iacouzze's lawyer said she only made a sarcastic remark to a sassy student.

## Bible study vetoed

**MI** FRANKENMUTH — A rural school district will not offer a religious group's bible class as an elective high school course, ending a yearlong debate.

The school board in Frankenmuth, about 75 miles north of Detroit, decided with one dissenting vote to not offer the "Bible As Literature and History" class at Frankenmuth High School, following the recommendation of school Superintendent Michael Murphy.

The proposed class would have been based on materials from the National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools of Greensboro, N.C.

## Defendant takes a break

**MA** EAST BROOKFIELD — While jurors deliberated the fate of a man accused of selling a stolen gun to a pawn shop, the defendant went out for a cup of coffee.

A week later, Peter J. Leo, 32, of Worcester is still in on the run.

According to court records, Leo was being tried on charges of larceny, carrying a firearm without a license and receiving stolen property. His lawyer, Christopher Locanto, said Leo was accused of selling a pistol that did not belong to him to a pawn shop.

After listening to closing arguments, jurors left to begin their deliberations. Leo and his girlfriend also left the courtroom, saying they were going for coffee, a court officer told The Telegram & Gazette of Worcester.

The jurors returned to the courtroom a short time later to deliver their verdict, but Leo was not there to hear he had been found guilty.

## Hackers get student info

**VA** RICHMOND — Computer hackers captured the names, Social Security numbers and other information of more than 30,000 students and staff at George Mason University earlier this month, school officials said.

The university, which is in Fairfax, near Washington, D.C., discovered on Jan. 3 that intruders had hacked into a server containing the protected information, school spokesman Daniel Walsch said. He said the university notified all students and staff.

The school established an information hot line and turned the case over to campus police, he said.

Photos and stories from wire services

## FACES

## Trump's version of the 'Love Boat'

Two words sum up a trip being offered to fans of "The Apprentice." You're sailing!

An eight-night cruise with the theme of the hit NBC show will sail from New York to the Caribbean on Sept. 26 after a bon voyage party in Manhattan with a send-off from Donald Trump.

Cast members from the show — including Bill Rancic, the first Apprentice, and Stacie Jones Upchurch, Jennifer Crisafulli and Raj Bhakta from the second season — will be on board. The trip will take place on the Carnival Legend cruise ship.

Guests can meet and talk to cast members, but there also will be onboard competitions involving teams and tasks, just like there is on the TV show, which is hosted by Trump. Participation will be open to all passengers.

In addition to cash prizes, one person will win the grand prize — spending a day as chief executive officer of Expedia.com, the online travel agency that is co-sponsoring the cruise.

The CEO-for-a-day will get a \$15,000 paycheck for all that hard work, first-class airfare to New York and ground transportation by limousine, plus a stay in a five-star hotel.

## Isley Brothers' singer pleads not guilty

Isley Brothers lead singer Ron Isley pleaded not guilty to charges of failing to report performance and royalty income.

Isley, who entered the plea Monday, was indicted in October for allegedly evading taxes from 1987 to 2002 by depositing his dead brother's royalty checks, buying cars for his personal use with money from a business account and paying his band members cash to keep them off the books.

He is charged with five counts of tax evasion and one count of failing to file an income tax return.

Isley, 63, was ordered to stand trial March 8. If convicted, he could face up to 25 years in prison.

According to the indictment, the R&B singer avoided paying taxes numerous times in the past three decades and declared bankruptcy after the Internal Revenue Service seized his yacht, cars and other property in 1997.

## Tambor becomes father, grandfather

Congratulations to new father — and new grandfather — Jeffrey Tambor of "Arrested Development."

Tambor, 60, who plays the patriarch of a dysfunctional family on the Fox comedy, and his wife, Kasia, 35, welcomed son Gabriel Kasper on Dec. 10, spokeswoman Amy Zvi said Monday.

Four days later, Tambor became a grandparent when his daughter, Molly, gave birth to son Mason Jay Moore.

Tambor, who played talk-show sidekick Hank Kingsley on television's "The Larry Sanders Show," will appear on Broadway in "Glenngary Glen Ross" beginning in April, his spokeswoman said in a statement.

## Grammy-winning Tejano artist arrested

Grammy Award-winning Tejano recording artist Emilio Navaira was free on bond Tuesday following his arrest on a drunken driving charge.

Navaira was charged after his sport utility vehicle rolled over early Monday as he tried make a turn, a San Antonio, Texas, police report said.

Navaira was treated at University Hospital, where he refused to give a blood sample.

He was then taken to a magistrate's office for booking and released on a \$3,500 bond.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

## In Hollywood...



Chuck Mitchell is president of Voices in the Arts, which dubs American films.

LATWP

## breaking language barriers brings in big bucks

With profits to be made, studios get serious about dubbing

BY MARY McNAMARA  
Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD — At first, Chuck Mitchell did not think it was such a great idea to insert a slaughterhouse joke in the middle of "Shrek."

"I said, wait a minute. I don't think so. I mean, it's one thing to have Shrek say he's going to kick Donkey's butt; it's another to have him dragging him off to the meat house."

But then Mitchell isn't Polish. Apparently, in Poland, there is a very funny folk tale involving a donkey and a slaughterhouse. And according to the translator working on the Polish version of the wildly successful DreamWorks film, they would be fools not to reference it. So Mitchell said he with the slaughterhouse.

"We had a great translator," he says with a shrug. "I trusted him. There were lots of things that had to be changed because a lot of the fairy tales they use in 'Shrek' are not known in Poland. So we used dialogue to add some Polish fairy tales."

Mitchell is president of Voices in the Arts, an audio production company that does, among other things, foreign dubbing for theatrical and nontheatrical film projects. As foreign sales have become increasingly important to the entertainment industry — making up, in some cases, 50 percent of revenue — the "foreign post-production," or dubbing, industry has grown in scope and expertise. Where once it consisted of literal voice-over translation, often not particularly well-synchronized, now entire casts and crews are assembled to re-create the dialogue in a way that captures not only the spirit of the original movie but also provides local nuance to make it play better in the various foreign territories.

Throughout Western Europe, English-speaking film and television has been regularly dubbed for years. In France, Italy, Germany and Spain (the FGFS, as they are called in the industry), there is a free-standing dubbing industry with studios and talent that can have lucrative careers in dubbing alone. But as Hollywood has ventured into East-

ern Europe, Asia and Africa, dubbing is overseen by the American studios that will hire local actors and directors but, when the budget allows, also provide a production supervisor such as Mitchell to be on set.

Mitchell signs off on everything — from the script to the performances, where cultural translation is as important as linguistics.

For "Shrek," Mitchell oversaw the Polish, Catalan and Castilian versions; for "Titan A.E.," he worked in Hong Kong, Korea, Spain, Iceland and Greece; and for "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace," he supervised the dubbing in Hong Kong and Russia.

"Chuck is part of a very select group who not only understand the creative process but also know how to do all the audio post-production," says Debra Chinn, executive director of international theatrical dubbing for Fox Film Corp., who has worked with Mitchell many times over the years. "Because it's not a question of understanding the language so much as it is understanding the original project."

"In a way, I am a professional American," Mitchell says. "A lot of the (foreign) directors may or may not have worked in the U.S., so they may or may not get some of the references or nuance. Sometimes I have to explain that this is supposed to be funny, or this isn't."

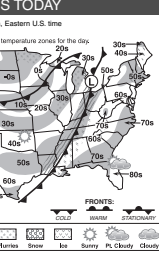
Mitchell, who cut into theatrical dubbing by way of music production and interactive dubbing, is one of a handful of independent dubbing supervisors living in the United States. Occasionally, he works in the FGFS. (If there is a big enough budget for the translated version, local stars will be cast — in France, Vincent Cassel often dubs Hugh Grant; in Poland, Jerzy Stuhm dubs Eddie Murphy in both "Shreks.") But much of his work has been in the newer territories, Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa still tend toward subtitles, but that is changing, especially for those films aimed at a family audience.

"When I got into dubbing in 1989," says Chinn, who has a degree in linguistics, "I went to Disney because the only studio that had its own dubbing department was Disney. Now most of the big studios have one."

*"There were lots of things that had to be changed because a lot of the fairy tales they use in 'Shrek' are not known in Poland."*

Chuck Mitchell  
president of Voices  
in the Arts, on dubbing  
"Shrek" for overseas  
markets





STARS AND STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper



# Horoscope

There's the opportunity to embody the very quality you want to possess. Grace, maturity and even majesty can be accomplished simply, naturally and without resistance. As the sun and Saturn engage in an enlightening conversation, you can powerfully assimilate recent lessons. Model a desired character trait, and you'll become it.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(January 13).** You'll get validation this year from your family, your peers and your community at large. Career happenings in February are remarkable. When you think you're through, something happens to take your project to the next level. Love is fabulous with a Cancer or Leo. For couples, the idea of building a better home with the one you love is an aphrodisiac.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19).

The lessons of the day are of the Zen variety — deliberately irrational occurrences that will jar you into realizing the limits of your thinking. What an experience. You drift off to sleep tonight to the sound of one hand clapping.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Your grandiose mission will be reduced to something menial — like standing in line at the post office or delivering coffee. It's all an important part of the plan, so don't worry that you might be wasting your time.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You do know how to bring the goods. Still, don't go all smarty-pants on your co-workers or boss. They're likely to get annoyed by your over-achieving tendencies. Play it humble. Anyone with half a brain knows you're great.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22).

The stars provide a kind of security check list. You'll be asking yourself hard questions, especially regarding your finances. It's simple, really. The more you do for others, the better you are compensated.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Be the total individual today, not at all influenced by the usual onslaught of

advertising and corporate brainwashing you encounter. You don't need a media spectacle to show you what you want out of life.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

When you think about your social life, there are definite rungs of friendship people must go through to get close to you. You don't answer the phone to just anybody. Somebody jumps from a lower rung to a higher one today.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

The apt of deception is featured, and you're alarmingly good at it. Your intention is not to harm the other person, but you sure wouldn't mind if they thought something was actually true.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

An idea you once cynically dismissed is now on your hot track. You have the ability to see controversial issues from all sides, but others have a hard time abandoning their strong points of view.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Being regimented is overrated. Besides, your curiosity takes you in a fascinating direction. Like Alice down the rabbit hole, you're not sure where you're headed, but you find a wonderland if you just keep going.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You're the center of attention, even though you don't feel as fabulous as others see you. If only you could see yourself in others, do, you'd give yourself a big hug and a few words of encouragement.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Mistakes happen, and you're adept at blowing past them in favor of focusing on the good. But there's a persistent error that deserves your attention. Rectifying it will bring an influx of good fortune to your world.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

The stars grant you abundant charisma. All you have to do is wave your hand, and people come running. Please remember to use your powers for good and not evil, though it's tempting to toy with others.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red Rover

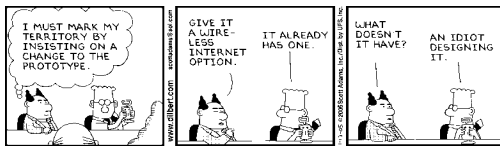
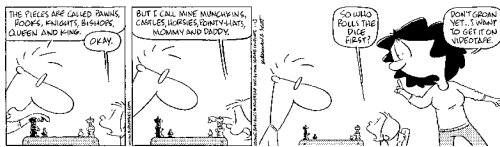


## Better or Worse



## Peanuts





## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15				16						17		
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		38		39				40				
41	42						43			44	45	46
47				48	49	50						
51				52					53			
54				55					56			

### Across

- 1 Woody fiber
- 5 Gossip
- 9 Mischief
- 12 State with certainty
- 13 Golden Spike site
- 14 Raw rock
- 15 Culklin movie
- 17 West of Hollywood
- 18 Quick-tempered
- 19 Ledge
- 21 E-mail address symbol
- 22 Concepts
- 24 Songwriter Gus
- 27 Grand —, Nova Scotia
- 28 Pointers
- 31 "What can — for you?"

## Down

- |    |                                |    |                      |
|----|--------------------------------|----|----------------------|
| 2  | Scrooge's cries                | 27 | assignment           |
| 2  | Shakespeare's river            | 27 | Laborer              |
| 3  | 18-wheeler                     | 29 | Luau offering        |
| 4  | Boring tool                    | 30 | Congeal              |
| 5  | Properly                       | 35 | New Haven            |
| 6  | Judge Lance                    |    | collegian            |
| 7  | Kurosawa movie                 | 37 | Phobos's request     |
| 8  | Foolish                        | 39 | Phoenix's origin     |
| 9  | Like that kid at Camp Grenada? | 40 | Little devil         |
| 10 | Evangelist Roberts             | 41 | "Smallville" girl    |
| 11 | Complaint                      | 42 | Teamwork obstacles   |
| 12 | Suitable                       | 46 | Re planes            |
| 13 | Chapeau                        | 48 | Bohr or Borge        |
| 20 | Annoyed                        | 48 | Pack away            |
| 23 | "Monopoly" card                | 49 | Hires Dick Tracy     |
|    |                                | 49 | Eggs                 |
|    |                                | 50 | "Little Women" woman |

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	E	W	S		P	A	L		A	R	M	S
A	C	H	E		I	R	A		B	O	I	L
S	H	A	M	R	O	C	K		A	C	M	E
P	O	T	I	O	N		M	I	L	K	E	D
			S	U	E		E	N	O	W		
P	A	W		T	E	N		K	N	E	E	L
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P	A	L	M	S		D	I	P		L	U	G
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M	A	T	T	E	L		L	L	A	M	A	S
I	G	O	T		T	O	D		O	L	I	S
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T	R	O	D		R	I	D		D	E	A	N

## 1-13

## CRYPTOQUIP

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**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** IF A MAN COULD  
COME TO A COSTUME PARTY DRESSED AS A  
KNIFE, HE'D LOOK REALLY SHARP.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: E equals R



## SCOREBOARD

## AFN TV &amp; Radio

## Thursday

**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.**—College basketball: Kansas at Iowa (live).

**AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.**—College basketball: Texas at Nevada (live).

**AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.**—NBA: L.A. Lakers at Denver (live).

**AFN-Sports, 6:30 p.m.**—NBA: Houston at Dallas (live).

## Friday

**AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.**—College basketball: Duke at North Carolina.

**AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.**—Auto racing: Pikes Peak Rally (live).

**AFN-Sports and Radio, 2 a.m.**—NBA: New York Knicks at Philadelphia.

**AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.**—College basketball: Marquette at Wake Forest.

**AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.**—College basketball: L.A. Lakers at Cleveland.

**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.**—Golf: Sony Open first round (live).

**AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.**—College basketball: Wake Forest at North Carolina (live).

**AFN-Sports, 2:30 p.m.**—College basketball: UCLA at Arizona (live).

**AFN-Sports, 7:30 p.m.**—College basketball: Oregon State at Washington State (live).

All times are Central Europe Time. Time did not include broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.afn.net](http://www.afn.net) for more information.

## College basketball

## AP Men's Top 25 ranked

**Tuesday**  
1. Illinois (16-0) did not play. Next: at Penn State.

2. Kansas (11-0) did not play. Next: at Iowa State.

3. North Carolina (13-1) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest.

4. Wake Forest (11-0) did not play. Next: at Duke.

5. Duke (11-0) did not play. Next: at North Carolina.

6. Oklahoma State (12-1) beat Missouri 74-69, New Year's Day.

7. Syracuse (16-1) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech.

8. Georgia Tech (13-2) did not play. Next: at North Carolina.

9. Kentucky (10-2) did not play. Next: at Tennessee.

10. Texas (12-0) did not play. Next: at Tennessee.

11. Mississippi State (14-2) did not play. Next: at Tennessee.

12. Connecticut (13-3) did not play. Next: at Rhode Island.

13. Boston College (13-0) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest.

14. Wake Forest (11-0) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech.

15. Oregon, Thursday.

16. North Carolina (13-1) did not play. Next: at Wisconsin.

17. Wisconsin (12-2) did not play. Next: at Loyola Marymount.

18. Loyola Marymount (12-0) did not play. Next: at Southern California.

19. Southern California (12-0) did not play. Next: at East Carolina.

20. East Carolina (12-3) did not play. Next: at Mississippi State.

21. Mississippi State (14-2) did not play. Next: at Tennessee.

22. Tennessee (12-2) did not play. Next: at Baylor.

23. Baylor (12-2) did not play. Next: at Baylor.

24. Baylor (12-2) did not play. Next: at Baylor.

25. Oklahoma's men's scores

**EAST**  
Albright 55, Widener 57.

Arkansas 65, Westminster 44.

Bentley 76, American International 62.

Bridgewater 58, Post 60.

Bridgewater 58, Westfield 62.

Clark 75, N.Y. Tech 54.

Clark 75, N.Y. Tech 54.

Clark 75, N.Y. Tech 54.

Lambuth 70, Tennessee Nazarene 69.  
Lynchburg 70, Southwestern 62.  
Marquette 70, West Virginia 55.  
SE Louisiana 55, Sam Houston 57.  
St. Francis 55, St. Louis 55.  
UC-Clemson 59, Kentucky 72.  
University of North Carolina 57.  
University of North Carolina 57.

**MIDWEST**  
Carroll 55, Milwaukee 57.  
Cedarville 104, Urbana 72.  
Cleveland State 57, Cleveland State 57.

Ferris 52, Ferris 52.  
Kentington 52, Spring Arbor 64.  
Kentington 52, Spring Arbor 64.

Knox 73, Illinois College 73.  
Lafayette 57, Simpson 57.  
Luther 70, Cornell 105.

Marquette 70, Marquette 70.  
Monmouth 111, Illinois 109.  
Monmouth 111, Illinois 109.

MS Missouri 79, E. Illinois 69.  
MS Missouri 79, E. Illinois 69.  
MS Missouri 79, E. Illinois 69.

St. Francis 101, St. Francis 101.  
St. Francis 101, St. Francis 101.  
St. Francis 101, St. Francis 101.

Walsh 62, Malone 76.  
Walsh 62, Malone 76.  
Walsh 62, Malone 76.

Wis.-Eau Claire 77, Wis.-Whitewater 76.  
Wis.-Eau Claire 77, Wis.-Whitewater 76.  
Wis.-Eau Claire 77, Wis.-Whitewater 76.

Wis.-River Falls 77, Wis.-Superior 68.  
Wis.-River Falls 77, Wis.-Superior 68.  
Wis.-River Falls 77, Wis.-Superior 68.

Wisconsin 72, Wis.-Oshkosh 66.  
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Alabama 64, Arkansas 61.  
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# Oklahoma State's Sutton ties mentor Iba with win No. 767

The Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — Even after a milestone victory, Eddie Sutton was preaching defense. Henry Iba taught him well.

Sutton tied his mentor for seventh in career coaching victories when No. 6 Oklahoma State beat Missouri 78-66 on Tuesday night.

"The basis of the way he taught the game was defense is a stabilizer," Sutton said of Iba. "It's a thing that on a night when you're not shooting the ball well, if your defense will hold up, maybe there will come a time when you get some momentum."

"If you don't play defense, all of a sudden you get blown away early and you're out of the game."

Joey Graham scored a season-high 27 points and John Lucas added 18 for the Cowboys (12-2, 2-0 Big 12), who held Missouri to 38 percent shooting from the field.

Sutton improved to 767-293 in his career, which included stints at Creighton, Arkansas and Kentucky before he returned to his alma mater in 1994.

"Mr. Iba would be thrilled be-

**Men's  
Top 25  
roundup**

cause he was a teacher, and I think the greatest credit that can be given is when someone who you coached or taught does well," Sutton said.

In all 12 of his wins this season, Oklahoma State has held its opponent without 50 percent shooting. It's a staple of Sutton's teams that can be traced back to the 1950s when he played and later coached under Iba.

The Cowboys held Missouri without a field goal for 5 minutes and broke open a 24-point game with a late 14-4 run.

Kleiza scored 24 points to lead the Tigers, who were 8-for-21 from three-point range. Kleiza was 13-for-13 from the foul line and fought off endless bows following an early technical foul. His tough inside play helped lead to two Oklahoma State defenders to foul out.

Sutton will try to pass Iba on Saturday when the Cowboys play Iowa State. Iba was 767-338 in 41 seasons. He spent 36 years in Still-

water and won the school's only two NCAA championships in 1945 and 1946 when it was still known as Oklahoma A&M. He died in 1993.

**No. 4 Wake Forest 81, Maryland 66:** Justin Gray scored 25 points, including a season-high six three-pointers, and the Demon Deacons (14-1, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) cruised to the home victory. Gray was coming off a 31-point performance against Clemson over the weekend.

Nik Caner-Medley had 18 points for the Terrapins (9-4, 1-2), who were coming off a 36-point loss at No. 3 North Carolina.

**No. 19 Louisville 107, Southern Miss 62:** Francisco Garcia had 25 points to lead the Cardinals (13-3, 2-1 Conference USA), who led by as many as 48 points and shot 57 percent from the field.

Rashaad Carruth had a career-high 25 points for the Golden Eagles (9-6, 0-3) in the worst home loss in school history.

Southern Mississippi has lost four straight.



**Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton, above, tied his mentor Henry Iba for seventh place on the career victories list Tuesday night as the Cowboys defeated Missouri 78-66 in Stillwater, Okla.**

**No. 23 Alabama 64, Arkansas 61:** Earnest Shelton scored 18 points and Kennedy Winston had nine of his 13 in the second half to lead the Crimson Tide (13-3, 2-1 Southern Conference) to the road win. Winston made one of two free throws with 9.8 seconds left to give Alabama a three-point lead and Eric Ferguson missed an open three-pointer with 2 seconds left that could have tied the game.

Ronnie Brewer had 15 points for the Razorbacks (13-3, 1-2).

# St. Mary's holds off Air Force

The Associated Press

MORAGA, Calif. — Brett Collins scored 15 points and St. Mary's overcame a poor shooting second half Tuesday night to hold off Air Force and win its ninth straight game, 59-58.

The Gaels (15-4), coming off a big victory over Gonzaga last Saturday, never trailed after scoring the game's first nine points.

But they almost blew a 13-point halftime lead, scoring only 19 points in the second half. Saint Mary's shot only 5-for-14 from the field and 9-for-18 from the foul line after halftime.

Jason Walberg missed two free throws with 24.5 seconds remaining, giving Air Force (10-6) a chance to win. Matt McGraw missed a jumper, but Nick Welch retained the ball for Air Force in a wild scramble for the ball. He launched a last-second air ball attempt while falling near the free-throw line as time ran out.

Paul Marjanovic added 13 points for the Gaels and E.J. Rowland scored 10.

McGraw led Air Force with 17 points. Tim Keller and Antoine Hood chipped in 12 apiece.

# Drawn-out baseball deals finally are finished

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Randy Johnson, Carlos Beltran, Shawn Green, Derek Lowe, Javier Vazquez and Juan Gonzalez finally got to their new teams following weeks of negotiations.

Dioner Navarro, a 20-year-old catcher with seven major league at-bats, even got traded twice Tuesday.

On a day when the Mets and Yankees combined for a news conference doubleheader, baseball dominated the New York sports scene, even with the jets getting ready for their matchup with Pittsburgh in the NFL playoffs.

In the morning at Shea Stadium, the Mets announced their \$119 million, seven-year contract with center fielder Carlos Bel-

tran, the 10th deal in baseball history worth \$100 million or more. The new-look Mets have added three-time Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martinez and might try to sign Carlos Delgado.

Three hours later, the Yankees introduced Johnson, a five-time Cy Young Award winner, after acquiring him from Arizona for Vazquez, Navarro, pitcher Brad Halsey and \$9 million. The Big Unit, who got a \$32 million, two-year contract extension through 2007, quickly apologized for getting into a sidewalk confrontation with a television cameraman en route to his physical the previous day.

"It was unprofessional and, obviously, I feel very foolish today, at such a great moment in my career, that I would have to sit be-

fore all of you, or stand before all of you, and apologize for my actions," he said.

Arizona then dealt Navarro and right-handers William Jueaz, Danny Muegge and Beltran. They went to Los Angeles for Green and \$10 million.

Green got a \$32 million, three-year contract from the Diamondbacks. He has a .314 average and .629 slugging percentage at Bank One Ballpark with 14 homers and 40 RBIs in 175 at-bats, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Arizona planned more moves. The Diamondbacks agreed with left-hander Shawn Estes on a \$2.5 million, one-year contract and were close to trading Shea Hillenbrand to the Toronto Blue Jays.

After shedding Green, Los An-

geles finalized its \$36 million, four-year contract with right-hander Derek Lowe, the winner for Boston in the final game of all three of its postseason series as the Red Sox won their first World Series in 86 years.

Gonzalez, a two-time AL MVP with Texas, finalized a minor league deal with Cleveland. The 35-year-old outfielder has 434 homers but played in only 33 games last year with Kansas City, batting .276 with 45 homers and 17 RBIs.

Toronto agreed to a \$5.2 million, two-year contract with left-hander Scott Schoeneweis, Philadelphia agreed to a \$500,000, one-year contract with right-hander Terry Adams and Baltimore agreed to a minor league deal with right-hander James Baldwin.



**After weeks of negotiations, Randy Johnson finally made his first appearance in New York Yankees pinstripes Tuesday.**

# The King files \$2.5 billion defamation suit over ESPN segment

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Boxing promoter Don King filed a \$2.5 billion defamation suit Wednesday, claiming he was portrayed in a false light on an ESPN "SportsCentury" segment aired last May.

The suit, filed in state court in Broward County, Fla., names ESPN, ABC Cable Networks, Advocate Communications and Disney as defendants, claiming King was falsely portrayed as "a con artist and a thug."

"This case is one of the worst examples of reckless broadcast journalism and blatant disregard for the truth," lawyer Willie Gary said.

The flamboyant promoter, who

**Sports  
briefs**

has represented fighters from Muhammad Ali to Mike Tyson, has spent much of his career in court.

He settled a lawsuit for \$7.5 million with former middleweight champion Terry Norris in late 2003 and still faces a \$100 million lawsuit filed against him by Tyson.

King also has beaten federal charges, including tax evasion and fraud.

**Austrian skier Knauss suspended for steroid use**

WENGEN, Switzerland — Aus-

trian skier Hans Knauss was temporarily suspended Wednesday for steroid use and could be banned for two years.

Knauss tested positive for nandrolone following his fourth-place finish in a World Cup downhill at Lake Louise, Alberta, on Nov. 27.

His backup sample also was positive, the international federation said.

Under international rules, athletes found guilty of using steroids face a two-year ban. Such a penalty most likely would end the 33-year-old skier's career. Knauss has won seven races in his 14 years on the World Cup circuit and wants to compete in the world championships, which

begin Jan. 28 and run through Feb. 13.

Sarah Lewis, secretary general of the ski federation (FIS), said Knauss has three options — accept the suspension, submit a written defense to the federation's doping panel or request a personal hearing.

A hearing for Knauss has been scheduled by FIS between Feb. 16 and 18 in Oberstdorf, Germany, said Christian Flick, the skier's legal adviser. But Lewis said Knauss could request an expedited process so the case would be settled before the worlds in Bormio, Italy. However, this would preclude the option of a personal hearing.

"Our main goal must be to

clear Hans of cheating on the one hand, and on the other hand give him a chance to return to the slopes as soon as possible," Flick said.

Knauss contends supplements he took were tainted with nandrolone, which was not listed as an ingredient on the container.

There have been few doping cases in Alpine skiing. France's Christelle Guignard was stripped of her bronze medal in giant slalom from the 1999 world championships for a positive test. More recently, Britain's Alain Baxter lost his 2002 Olympic slalom bronze medal after testing positive for the banned stimulant.

# Miami showing ACC it can play

BY STEVEN WINE  
The Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — The pep band blared brassy tunes, the student section rode the officials and the public address announcer bellowed after each basket, creating a din that reached the cheap seats.

For the Atlantic Coast Conference, it was routine stuff. But for the Miami Hurricanes, it was altogether different.

The ACC newcomers won their league home opener Sunday, beating North Carolina State 67-66. The victory was especially sweet because it came before a sellout crowd — the first in two years for the Hurricanes.

"When the fans are screaming and hollering, supporting you like that, that's what you want," said Robert Hite, Miami's leading scorer. "Hopefully, we can continue to get that throughout the season."

Hite and his teammates are accustomed to playing before mostly empty seats at their on-campus convocation center. Last season, their last in the Big East, Miami averaged just 2,545 fans at home.

Sunday's crowd of 6,067 was modest by ACC standards, but evidence that switching leagues might be good for Hurricanes hoops.

A home game against Duke on Jan. 19 also is sold out.

And the Hurricanes have defied predictions that they'll serve as a conference doormat.

Their second-half rally fell short in a loss last week at then-No. 9 Georgia Tech. But Miami overcame an early 12-point deficit to beat North Carolina State in a thriller that wasn't decided until the final shot.

"We played like a poised team with a lot of savvy down the stretch," first-year coach Frank Haith said. "You've got to play like that in and night out in this league."

The Hurricanes are 10-3, a big improvement from last season, when they finished 14-16. Victories include non-conference wins over Florida and Massachusetts.

"I think a lot of teams underestimate us," center Anthony King said. "We're two games into the ACC now, and a lot of them are trying to see what we're really made of."



Miami guard Guillermo Diaz (13) hits a three-pointer over N.C. State guard Engin Atsurs. He scored 26 in the Hurricanes' victory on Sunday and 27 in a loss to Georgia Tech.

We're showing them we're not going to finish in the bottom of the ACC."

The Hurricanes have long been regarded as a sleeping giant unable to take advantage of their state's fertile prep talent pool.

There were occasional signs of life, such as when coach Leonard Hamilton led Miami to three consecutive NCAA tournament berths, including the round of 16 in 2000.



First-year Miami head coach Frank Haith has his team prepared to play "against the best basketball teams in the country."

But Miami Arena was rarely more than half full when the Hurricanes played there, and the opening of the convocation center in 2003 coincided with declining fortunes under coach Peyer Clark.

The roster Clark left behind included considerable raw talent, and under Haith the Hurricanes are physical inside, feisty on defense and perimeter-oriented on offense. Guards Hite, Guillermo Diaz and Anthony Harris are averaging more than 12 points apiece.

"Those three guards are as good as any in the country," Florida coach Billy Donovan said.

Diaz, a sophomore and former member of the Puerto Rican junior national volleyball team, led the comeback against North Carolina State. He has scored 27 and 26 points in two ACC games.

"He's athletic and explosive — a great player," Wolfpack guard Engin Atsurs said. Diaz and the Hurricanes play at Virginia on Wednesday, then return home to face rival Florida State on Saturday. The Seminoles know all about the lower half of the ACC. They joined the league in 1992 and have finished in the second division each of the past 10 years.

"The Hurricanes are eager to do better than that."

"We're playing against the best basketball teams in the country," Haith said. "If you're a player, that's a lifelong dream."

# Leinart sounds like he's far from deciding his future

BY KEN PETERS  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Take a job and become an instant multimillionaire or stay in school and collect \$895 a month for another year.

To Matt Leinart, that's a dilemma.

"It's tough when you have so many people telling you, 'The money's there, take it.' Then your friends and other people say, 'But the money could be there in a year... what's another 10 months?'" USC's Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback said Tuesday.

The NFL deadline for college underclassmen to declare for the draft is Saturday. Leinart said he expects to announce Thursday whether he'll return for his senior season.

He said Tuesday that he's still on the fence, and won't decide until the last minute — or beyond.

Asked what he'll be doing leading up to his announcement, Leinart shook his head and said, "A lot

of praying. I'm going to go with what my gut tells me and what I feel at the time. Who knows, I might be one way when I'm going in to announce, and when I'm up there, I'll change."

After leading the Trojans to consecutive national titles, Leinart is fully aware of the risks of playing another year for them. An injury or a less successful season could drop him in the NFL Draft and cost him millions of dollars.

Two outstanding junior quarterbacks, Aaron Rodgers of California and Alex Smith of Utah, already have declared for this year's draft.

Leinart doesn't seem eager to end his college days.

"It is a business, and I don't know if I'm ready for that," he said of the NFL. "College, it's fun. We get stipend checks, that's our money, live with our friends, just hang out and have fun. College is the best time of your life, and I think the situation I'm in, it really couldn't get any better being here."

The \$895 monthly stipend for athletes is supposed to cover everything but their training table meals.

Although Leinart believes he's accomplished about everything he can as college quarterback, there's one team goal remaining that may factor in his decision. The Trojans could become the first team to win three consecutive national titles.

"Sometimes my heart's like, come back. This is just so great here, and a chance to do something no team has ever done before," he said. "I look at it as a win-win situation for me. If I leave, I'm fulfilling my dream to play in the NFL, to get a shot and try to do that."

"Or I stay in school and be here with something that's real special that's going on, the start of a dynasty. I know that's kind of a bold statement, but it's just obvious what we're doing here and what coach [Pete] Carroll is doing. I'm pretty sure coach Carroll plans on staying around to be a part of this."

Although there has been speculation that an NFL team might try to lure Carroll back to the league, he said recently that he's not interested in leaving USC.

Trojans linebacker Lofa Tatum and punter Tom Malone also are expected to announce Thursday whether they will leave school early.

Even if Leinart and those two do turn pro, USC still should be loaded next season since most of the starters return. Waiting in the wings is quarterback John David Booty, a third-year sophomore from Louisiana who is considered a better prospect than Leinart was when he took over for 2002 Heisman winner Carson Palmer.

And the Trojans already have a verbal commitment from one of the top high school quarterbacks, Mark Sanchez from Mission Viejo, Calif.

Leinart has received advice from, among many others, Palmer and Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

After winning the Heisman in

his senior season, Palmer was taken by the Cincinnati Bengals with the No. 1 pick in the 2003 draft.

Roethlisberger, the 2004 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year, chose Miami (Ohio) after his junior year and was taken by the Steelers with the 11th pick last spring. He received a \$9 million bonus and earned some \$2.5 million in salary and performance money.

"It almost seems like an easy decision to people outside of USC, 'Why stay when you can be a top pick?' But it's really a lot harder than it seems to make the decision. There are so many pros and cons to both decisions," said Leinart, who began classes on Monday and could complete requirements for his sociology degree this semester.

"Whatever I do, I'm going to be happy with my decision and move on from there."

He threw for 3,322 yards and 33 touchdowns this season, capping it in grand fashion with an Orange Bowl record five touchdown passes in the Trojans' 55-19 victory over Oklahoma.



Indianapolis running back Edgerrin James, left, fends off Denver linebacker D.J. Williams during the Colts' 49-24 victory on Sunday. The Patriots have beaten the Colts three times in the past two seasons.

## These Colts have horsepower

BY BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning knows his NFL history. He sees his name among the great quarterbacks who have won league MVP honors: Joe Montana, John Unitas, John Elway, Steve Young, Terry Bradshaw.

He also knows something is missing.

In this the year Manning gets that elusive championship ring to accompany his second straight Most Valuable Player award? Could be.

In none of Manning's previous six seasons with the Colts has he seen so well-positioned to challenge for a title. The offense is performing at an almost unfathomable pace, thanks to Manning's precise passing and the superb skills of receivers Marvin Harrison, Reggie Wayne and Brandon Stokley, plus running back Edgerrin James and tight ends Marcus Pollard and Dallas Clark.

The defense, while hardly in the class of the other three re-

maining AFC contenders, has improved. It has enjoyed the advantage of playing from ahead because of how prolific Manning and company have been. It has two playmakers in Dwight Freeney and Rob Morris, and a terrific coach in Tony Dungy.

The Colts also are not a "dome team," as Dungy readily points out.

"We don't subscribe to the indoor-outdoor theory," Dungy says. "We have a better record on the road than at home since I've been here."

Actually, it's the same; 17-7 at home and away.

Where they were a terrible record, however, is at New England. And that's where the Colts (13-4) play Sunday, versus the defending champion Patriots (14-2), a club that often befuddles Manning with intricate defensive alignments and shifts.

Forget the weather, which hasn't necessarily been a problem for the Colts. Their failures against the Patriots, including a defeat at the RCA Dome in the 2003 season, are due to Bill Belichick's schemes that have thrown off the always-prepared Manning.

But this edition of the Colts seems to possess a different mid-set than the team that claimed it could handle the Patriots in recent meetings, then failed.

"Your confidence has to be that you're playing well and we're playing more consistently at the

end of the year than last year," Dungy says.

"At New England," said Manning, referring to last January's AFC championship game, "I played like an absolute dog. There's no question about it."

"We have to play great up there against a great team."

So are they capable of doing so, of eliminating a team that has won all six of its playoff games with Belichick as coach and Tom Brady as quarterback?

Yes. Here's why: ■ The Patriots, even with a week off, are not completely healed.

They are hurting most in the secondary, a bad situation when facing Indianapolis. And their best lineman, Richard Seymour, has an injured knee.

■ Manning is operating on an unprecedented level, and he has more weapons to choose from than ever. Wayne has become a premier receiver, not just a complement to the brilliant Harrison. Stokley is a perfect slot man. Both tight ends are especially dangerous near the end zone. The offensive line gives Manning enough time to go through his progressions — and nobody reads progressions better.

"I've never left the field saying I could have done more to be ready," Manning says. "I don't think I do more than any quarterback should; I give it the attention it deserves."

■ The officials' stronger emphasis on not allowing receivers to be mugged downfield, a direct result of last year's AFC title game, favors the Colts.

■ The Colts aren't intimidated by the Patriots.

"I don't think anybody in our building would say we can't go up there and beat them," Dungy says. "Part of what we have to do is realize it is just football, even if it's the playoffs and New England. We make the big plays, we'll win."

Few teams have made more big plays this season than the Colts.

## History will watch Manning, Patriots

BY TOM E. CURRAN

The Providence Journal

FOXBORO, Mass. — History is strengthening its tie this week and smoothing its hair in the mirror. It has an appointment Sunday in Foxboro.

History doesn't actually attend many events. Most aren't worthy of its notice. But those that will be relevant to History 5, 10, 20 years down the road get special attention. History will make sure the participants will be forever recalled as they were on that particular day even if — many years forward — those participants are gray, stooped or dead.

History shows up when a great change is going to take place so that it may be recorded. History shows up when indelible moments occur.

So history is reaching up into its closet and taking down its worn gloves and furry hat. It's going to the garage to get its biba-chi.

History will be tailgating outside Gillette Stadium early Sunday afternoon before the playoff game between the New England Patriots and Indianapolis Colts. History then will go inside and find a place because it will want to record this event.

The Patriots are changing. Drastically. Offensive coordinator Charlie Weiss is leaving at the end of the year.

Defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel may be as well. The best of the best, they say, they ever had, Troy Law, may not be back next season, and Troy Brown — the player who has embodied what this franchise

has been about since Bill Belichick came to town — is near the end, too. Vice president of player personnel Scott Pioli is going to be wooed by every team in the league that wants to get better faster.

The run of these Patriots is nearing its end. With Belichick, Tom Brady, Tedy Bruschi and Richard Seymour still on board, they still will be easily recognizable and they may well continue to be a league power. But Sunday's game affords this team — as it is presently constituted — a chance to make a monumental statement regarding what it has been about.

It can be the perfect bookend to the 2001 Super Bowl victory over the Rams. History remembers that day when the Patriots were introduced not just to football fans, but the entire world as a team, complete with all the selflessness, grit and passion that teams are supposed to have. They have everyone's attention again, only this time they will be trying to add to a legacy that began with that Super Bowl triumph.

There are many who already believe the Patriots' run ends Sunday.

### Commentary

That the shape they are in will make it impossible to stop Indianapolis and continue their reign as the best team in football.

History already remembers that this is the team that drew up the blueprints for long-term domination in a league that was supposed to be immune to it. And History knows that one of the main parts of the plan was to make sure that no one player is bigger than the team.

To win Sunday, the team will have to stop a one-player operation.

Of course, the Colts are much more than that, and the one player — Peyton Manning — would say himself that he isn't the whole show.

But History won't have time for such details. History will remember Peyton Manning and the Colts. Not the Colts, quarterbacked by Peyton Manning.

Manning is the hood ornament for the offense. He's the easy answer to the questions of who is the best player, the best quarterback, the guy who gets the endorsements and the commercials, the magazine covers and the individual accolades.

He is said by some to be the best ever.

But it will be hard for history to see Manning in the light he's supposed to be seen in if he doesn't win a title. And if Manning doesn't do it by stepping over the Patriots, then that's no good, either.

Until then, the hood ornament won't sit quite right on the hood.

To continue the ascendancy he was baptized into, Manning has to beat New England. They are the albinoed tight round his neck, the team against which he turns to pudding.

To lose Sunday, when the Patriots are battered and expected to lose — that would be something that History could not ignore.

Manning's marching orders are to win now against a Patriots team that is ripe for the picking. Win, or run the risk of having History take to his bed for the rest of his career. Because if New England wins Sunday, Peyton Manning will have lost. Not the Colts.

Manning. History's funny like that.

That is not the most important game this weekend or the most important game of the playoffs. This game offers considerable historic impact.

Whether it winds up 20-17 in double overtime or 42-3, the winner — and the loser — Sunday will be remembered for many years.

By History.



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# Poined exchange of words between Jets and Steelers

BY CHUCK FINDER

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Silly as it might seem in the playoffs, when motivation and emotion reach the additional external fueling, Steelers linebacker James Farrior and several New York Jets players, namely defensive end Shaun Ellis, exchanged relatively charged words this week over ... words.

It all goes back to some visiting postgame proclamations when the Steelers and Jets confronted one another Dec. 12 at Heinz Field.

In the aftermath of that 17-6 Steelers triumph, an array of Jets from Curtis Martin on down talked for public consumption about how they hoped to return to the same venue, to face the same team, in the postseason.

Ellis went a step further, vowing that night: "If we come back again, we'll beat them. I honestly believe that with all my might."

This from a muscular, 6-foot-5, 285-pound fellow nicknamed "Big Kat" with 41 career sacks, including 1½ of his team-high 11 this season in last month's game at Heinz Field.



Game time is Central European.

"Yeah, we noticed it," Farrior, a Jets linebacker between 1997-2001, said on a telephone conference call Tuesday. "We were surprised he said that ... We just looked at it and laughed at it, and they got what they wished for" — a rematch.

To which Ellis responded barely two seconds later, when informed by media members about Farrior's comments: "The statement that I made, I'm a man, I put my name on it, I'll stick by it."

Then again, Ellis added, what would folks expect from a professional, competitive athlete after a loss?

"I'm not going to say they're

going to beat us the next time," he continued. "I'd be a damn fool to say that. I still believe that (the Jets will win). It was just the way I truly felt in my heart. Here it is, we got another chance against them ... Whatever happens, happens."

To be sure, the Jets still feel an extra sting from that defeat. They were whistled for 12 penalties in the first half, a season high for a team that committed the fewest in the AFC this season and the least amount in the NFL combined over the past four years under coach Herman Edwards.

League officials, in their post-game report the following week, admitted that Walt Anderson's score muffed a few calls — two of which came in one second-quarter series, wiping out 59 yards in Jets gains, and another that nullified a Hines Ward fumble.

Worse for this bunch, they held rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger to the worst day of his 14-game NFL winning streak — he completed a 1.3 pass rate in the first half and tossed two interceptions — and lost to the Steel-



Despite seeing his team outgained 296-262, Steelers coach Bill Cowher, above, saw his team beat the Jets 17-6 on Dec. 12 in Pittsburgh.

ers on a day when the winning touchdown was scored on a pass from Jerome Bettis.

The Jets outgained the Steelers 296-262, but quarterback Chad Pennington threw a pass that Farrior intercepted at the Steelers' 26 and a Troy Polamalu interception deep in New York territory led to a Jeff Reed field goal.

In short, the Jets remember it being a 3-3 game until the fourth quarter, whereupon the Steelers scored on Bettis' halfback pass to Jerome Tuman and his touchdown rumble around right end nine minutes later.

The fact that the loss was the first of three in the Jets' final four

regular-season games only serves to compound their agony.

"We didn't play physical enough and we didn't play smart," linebacker Eric Barton said of the Jets' defense, which allowed Roethlisberger to rally from that horrendous first half to complete four of his final five passes for 99 yards. "Penalties and coverages, we messed up a couple of times."

"We felt like a lot of things were against us and we played out of character, we got a lot of penalties," Elliss said. "Not saying we should have won or whatever, but I think we have been a lot tighter at the end. That's the game we like to play."

## Edwards apologizes for sideline argument

BY ANDREA ADELSON

The Associated Press

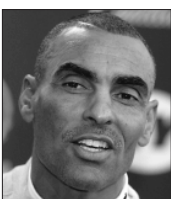
HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Herman Edwards' mother saw this side of him many times. Now the entire country can see it, too.

The Jets coach finally let his emotions get the best of him during the wild-card game against the San Diego Chargers on Saturday night, getting into a fight with assistant coach Bishop Harris on the sideline. Edwards knew he was wrong the second he let the words come out of his mouth, so he stepped in front of his team Tuesday and said he was sorry for losing his cool.

"It wasn't right," Edwards said as the Jets prepare to play Pittsburgh on Saturday. "The head coach is supposed to keep his composure. That's the one thing I preach to our football team all the time. I have high expectations on myself and I let my guard down and I shouldn't have fallen into this trap."

"I won't embarrass the league by showing me on the TV set instead of showing our team."

Edwards, who usually exudes California cool, had never lost his temper before as a player or a coach. But his players know Edwards is plenty emotional. Veteran wide receiver Wayne Chavchav said he does not understand how Edwards keeps everything bottled up inside.



Jets head coach Herman Edwards, above, had a heated argument with assistant coach Bishop Harris during Saturday's playoff game in San Diego. The nature of the confrontation is unknown.

"I liked it," Chereb said. "I know he's got it in him. We need that, to follow his lead. I know what he was like when he played. I know he still has it in him."

But the inner fire Edwards has serves his team well.

"I don't usually get mad, but there's times on the field where I'm a second away from the same type of thing," Curtis Martin said. "That's just emotion, that's football. Just playing out there in that game especially. I didn't really think of it as anything."

Edwards screamed at Harris late in the third quarter but has declined to say why. It is known that Edwards wanted to get back-up LaMont Jordan more involved in the game.

Harris makes the personnel calls after getting the plays from offensive coordinator Paul Hackett over the headset. So the altercation probably had something to do with the use of Martin and Jordan. Harris has declined interview requests this week.

## Subtracting Owens from equation multiplies Minnesota's guesswork

BY DON SEEHLER

St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — For the second time in as many weeks, the Vikings are preparing to face a playoff opponent they played during the regular season.

Unlike last Sunday's NFC wild-card game against the Green Bay Packers, though, it's uncertain just how much of an advantage — if any — that experience might be.

When the Vikings played at Philadelphia on Sept. 20, star wide receiver Terrell Owens was an important part of Minnesota's defensive game planning, and he had a big hand in the Eagles' 27-16 victory.

With Owens sidelined with an ankle injury, the Eagles' offense is something of a mystery heading into Sunday's playoff game.

"We're trying to, as coaches, figure out what type of personality they're going to try to put on the field offensively without Owens," Vikings coach Mike Tice said. "Of course, they have the great playmaker at running back (Brian Westbrook) and a great tight end (Chad Lewis)."

"We've got to be the best job we can as coaches to put a plan together that takes away the personality they're going to have on Sunday, and we don't know exactly what that's going to be."

In the two games since Owens missed the regular season with 36 receptions for 676 yards and one touchdown, so Owens' absence figures to be huge.



Game time is Central European.

Week 16 loss to the St. Louis Rams and not all in the season-ending 38-10 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals.

Already assured of home-field advantage for the playoffs, the Eagles rested several other starters. Vikings defensive coordinator Ted Cottrell said he expects to see basically the same Philadelphia offense on Sunday, even with Owens out.

"They still run their offense," Cottrell said. "They're not going to change. When they had Terrell, they put him in the (same) position where the receivers were last year. They've got a variety of formations and plays anyway. They plug the players in to run the offense."

That might be true, but the Eagles can't simply plug in another Owens, who caught a team-high 77 passes for 1,200 yards and 14 touchdowns in 14 games.

Philadelphia's second-leading wide receiver, Todd Pinkston, finished the regular season with 36 receptions for 676 yards and one touchdown, so Owens' absence figures to be huge.

"He opens it up for the other receivers, gives Westbrook more room to work," Vikings cornerback Antoine Winfield said. "Some of the double-team hits. They can spread the field with him. I don't know what they're going to do without him."

Owens caught four passes for 79 yards, including a disputed 45-yard touchdown, during the regular-season victory over the Vikings. But it's not as if the Eagles have lost their only offensive weapon.

They still have McNabb, who passed for 245 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another against the Vikings.

"He makes that offense go," Cottrell said of McNabb. "He's critical to them. He can still scramble well with the ball, he's strong, and I think he's making a lot better decisions. His decision-making has improved over the years with his experience. It's not easy being a quarterback up in Philadelphia, either. Those are my hometown fans, and they're kind of tough on you if you're not performing, especially at the quarterback position. This guy's been doing a great job."

Throw in Westbrook, the team's leading rusher and second-leading receiver, and tight ends Lewis and L.J. Smith, and Cottrell said the defense has its work cut out for it.

"They have enough weapons," Cottrell said. "T.O. was a great playmaker last year, but they've been in (the conference) championship three years in a row, so they've got the weapons to get there."









Suns forward Amare Stoudemire, left, shoots over Heat forward Udonis Haslem, right, in the fourth quarter. Stoudemire scored 34 points.

## Suns: Stoudemire a young Shaq

### SUNS, FROM BACK PAGE

"We've obviously struggled with the top teams in the West, and that's something that I think should stick in our mind every day," Van Gundy said. "And any time we have any tendency to get complacent, that should be what pushes us and drives us to improve over the last 14 weeks of the season. We have to get a lot better to get to where we want to go. You can't argue the facts on that."

Stoudemire relished his matchup with O'Neal, his boyhood idol.

"I did a little bit of everything," Stoudemire said. "I tried to mix it up on him, and use my jumper. I figured he was going to back up a little bit and let me shoot, and when he came out, I took it to the rack and tried to get fouls or make plays for my teammates."

O'Neal has always liked Stoudemire.

"Tonight it was the old me versus the young me," O'Neal said. "I wanted to make him shoot the jumper, and he shot it, and he shot it real well. He's a great kid."

Despite Miami's attempts to slow the tempo, the Suns raced to their highest-scoring first quarter of the season, taking a 40-25 lead. Miami never was closer than 10 again.

"We talked about it. Every first quarter, they

jump on people," Van Gundy said. "We got ourselves in a big hole, and we've tried a couple times to fight back, but we just could never get enough stops to ever make it a game."

"I'm disappointed that we didn't come out and do the things that we talked about," Heat forward Udonis Haslem said.

Stoudemire made all four of his first-quarter shots — each one from beyond 15 feet.

O'Neal scored 17 in the first half on 8-for-9 shooting, five of them dunks. O'Neal and Stoudemire are first and second in the NBA in dunks.

The Heat were down 71-61 on Wade's basket early in the second half, but the Suns went on one of their trademark runs, this one 18-4, to go up 89-65 on Stoudemire's soaring dunk with 6:40 left in the third.

In the fourth quarter, Stoudemire was knocked down by O'Neal, but flipped the ball in sidearm as he fell. He made the free throw for a three-point play to put Phoenix up 105-85 with 9:46 left.

O'Neal's basket cut it to 106-89, but Marion responded with a baseline jumper, then Johnson made his fourth three-pointer of the game, and third of the half, and it was 111-91 with 7:24 remaining.

"They shot the ball very well, and we made too many mistakes," O'Neal said. "Every time we'd almost get back in it, we have a turnover and they'd go down and make a three."

## Franics upset friend Mobley was traded

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Steve Francis became a close friend of Cuttino Mobley during their six seasons as teammates, so the Orlando star was upset when the Magic shipped his friend to Sacramento.

"They shouldn't have traded him," Francis said after a 119-101 loss to the Boston Celtics on Monday night, adding that he was emotionally drained and distracted during the game.

Mobley was dealt shortly before tipoff with forward Michael Bradley to the Kings for guard Doug Christie. Mobley has become a free agent after the season, and Christie's defensive skills should help a team that has allowed the most points per game in the NBA.






The Kings gave up Christie, their best defender and a team leader, to add another scorer to their lineup. Mobley averaged 16 points, 2.7 rebounds and 1.8 assists in 23 games with the Magic, who acquired him from Houston along with Francis last summer in the seven-player trade involving Tracy McGrady.

But Francis took the departure of his backcourt partner hard. "I can't put it into words," he said. "Playing with a guy, living with a guy, just knowing that every day when I wake up that's something I can count on, that I'm going to be in practice or in a game with Cuttino."


"Him not being here is going to be tough for me. I don't know what I'm going to do up for."

The Houston Rockets drafted Mobley in the second round in 1998 out of Rhode Island, then got Francis in a trade after Vancouver took him in the first round in 1999 out of Maryland. They came to Orlando with Kelvin Cato in the McGrady deal.


The trade helped the Magic, who are 18-15. Last season, they didn't earn their 18th win until their 64th game.

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## SPORTS

## Suns in different league



Phoenix Suns forward Amare Stoudemire, right, slaps the ball out of the grasp of Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal, left, in the third quarter Tuesday in Phoenix. Both players lead their respective teams with 34 points as the Suns defeated the Heat 122-107.

## West's best team coasts past East-leading Heat

BY BOB BAUM  
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The ever-energized Phoenix Suns made the best in the East look slow and overmatched — just like they've done to almost every opponent so far in a remarkable season.

Amare Stoudemire scored 34 points, and the Suns won their seventh straight 122-107 over the Miami Heat on Tuesday night in what turned out to be a mismatch of the teams with the best records in the West and East.

All five Suns starters hit double figures — in the first half — and Phoenix improved to 31-4, the sixth-best start for a team with four losses in league history. Four of the five teams ahead of the Suns went on to win the NBA title.

Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said he knew what the Suns would do, but he couldn't stop them from doing it.

"We got absolutely dominated from the get-go," he said. "Look, that's a great team. I'm a little humbled by the fact that we could not come up with any kind of plan to stop them from a coaching standpoint."

## West if best

The Miami Heat have the best record in the NBA's Eastern Conference at 27-10, but they have a 7-8 record against teams from the Western Conference and just one victory against the top six teams from the West. Here's the results of those games:

Nov. 11 — lost to Dallas, 113-93  
Nov. 12 — lost to San Antonio, 93-84  
Nov. 16 — lost to Minnesota, 108-97  
Dec. 23 — won at Sacramento, 109-107  
Jan. 3 — lost to Seattle, 98-96  
Jan. 9 — lost to Seattle, 108-98  
Jan. 11 — lost at Phoenix, 122-107



Shawn Marion added 26 points and 11 rebounds, Steve Nash 16 points and 16 assists and Joe Johnson 24 points and nine rebounds for the Suns, who have won 18 of 19.

"Just right now it's fitting all together," Phoenix coach Mike D'Antoni said. "He [Nash] makes it look easy, and the other guys make it look easy. They play off each other. This is probably our best stretch we've had all year."

The fleet-footed Suns ran out to a 17-point

lead in the first quarter, never let Miami closer than 10 and topped 120 points for the second game in a row and seventh time this season.

"I don't know that I've seen a quicker team in my 10 years in the league," Van Gundy said. "They've got great athletes at every position."

"They're a very unselfish team," Miami's Eddie Jones said. "And they push it right at you, right down your throat."

Despite his team's eye-popping record, D'Antoni won't call the Suns the best team in the NBA.

"You know, San Antonio's good," he said. "They only beat us by 20 points, so it's kind of hard for me to say we're better than they are. We're good. We're playing real well, and we're going to get better."

Shaquille O'Neal had 34 points and 11 rebounds, and Dwyane Wade added 23 points, but the Heat — beaten at Seattle on Sunday — lost two in a row for only the second time this season. The first was early November, when Dallas and San Antonio beat Miami in back-to-back games Nov. 11-12.

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